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ARAB TIMES

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Monarchs to review international developments

Hussein, Fahd to have talks on Arab unity

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia, Jan 24 (AP): King Hussein of Jordan arrived today for talks with King Fahd on their efforts to forge Arab unity and encourage Washington to be flexible in its talks with the PLO.

Jordanian officials and Arab diplomats in Amman said Hussein may also seek financial aid.

The Jordanian monarch was greeted at Dhahran airport in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province by Fahd, who is currently in the region.

They drove to the nearby King Abdul Aziz Air Base where they watched a flypast by Saudi Air Force jets. They will hold talks later at Fahd's palace in Dammam, the provincial capital.

Summit

Hussein was accompanied by Jordan's Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Foreign Minister Marwan Kassen and Court Chamberlain Zaid Bin Shaker.

Diplomatic sources said the two monarchs will review Arab and international developments and "efforts to heal inter-Arab



King Hussein



King Fahd

differences" to pave the way for a long-delayed regular Arab summit in Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian capital.

Hussein and Fahd are seeking to achieve a long elusive unity in the Arab world in advance of a proposed international Middle East peace conference.

Saudi Arabia and Jordan have been key factors in persuading hardline Syria to end its feud with other Arab states.

Damascus restored relations

with Morocco earlier this month after a 30-month break and there are strong signs that it will heal a more damaging rift with Egypt.

Syrian President Hafez Assad, like most Arab states, severed relations with Cairo after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. But, given the green light by a 1987 Arab summit in Amman, most Arab states have resumed relations with Egypt.

Hussein was scheduled to visit Cairo tomorrow.

Syria remains at odds with Iraq in a nine-year-old ideological feud. The two countries are ruled by rival wings of the Baath Socialist Party.

Several efforts to reconcile the feuding neighbours have failed.

But Hussein, who played a key role in Egypt's readmission to the Arab fold, is committed to healing Syria's rift with Iraq.

The diplomatic sources said he was expected to brief Fahd on these efforts.

Syria's recent moves underlined a growing flexibility in Damascus that was apparently triggered by its diplomatic isolation following the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war. Syria was Tehran's main Arab ally.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt have been pressing Washington to be flexible in its dialogue with the PLO, which has proclaimed an independent Palestinian state on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hussein was also expected to brief Fahd on reported plans for an economic and political alliance between Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen.

Egyptian President Mubarak is averse to axes within the Arab world, but the purported alliance was seen in the region as primarily designed to enhance economic co-operation, diplomatic sources said.

Support

Saudi Arabia was one of seven countries which committed themselves at a 1978 Arab summit in Baghdad to give Jordan \$1.25 billion annually as part of a support package to "front line" nations in a state of war with Israel.

Only Saudi Arabia fully honoured its pledge, paying Jordan almost \$360 million a year. But the pact expired at the end of last year.

Arab diplomats said Jordan urgently needed \$400 million to meet debt repayments in the next two months and hoped to raise the money from Riyadh and other Gulf states.

But the diplomats said that Riyadh, hit by shrinking oil revenues, was unlikely to provide much more than \$100 million a year.

Press Iraq to speed up peace, Iran urges UN

NICOSIA, Jan 24 (Reuters): Iran today urged UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to end what it called Iraqi stalling of peace negotiations as a UN mediator opened talks in Tehran.

Jan Eliasson, personal representative of Perez de Cuellar, met Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hossein Lavassani to discuss the deadlock in UN-supervised peace talks.

Tehran Radio said Eliasson, who is Sweden's UN envoy, would seek to fix a date for resumption of the peace meetings adjourned since Nov 11.

But the radio said the key part of his mission was in Baghdad, where he is expected to arrive on Friday, and his talks with Iraqi officials would show whether the impasse could be broken.

Realise

"Perez de Cuellar should try to end diversionary issues and preconditions raised by the Iraqi regime... Resolution 598 is binding, it is not a contract and Iraqi consent is not necessary for carrying it out," the radio said.

"The Iraqi regime must withdraw its forces to international borders to realise article one of the resolution," it said.

Baghdad says troop withdrawals can follow a comprehensive ceasefire which should include guarantees of free navigation in the Gulf and the dredging of the Shatt Al Arab border river.

Meanwhile, Iraq sent home 124 more Iranian prisoners today, completing the first return of Gulf war captives since November.

Gesture

Red Cross sources in Baghdad said the yellow-uniformed Iranians left Baghdad airport for Tehran on a chartered airliner, following 131 freed yesterday in a unilateral release billed by Baghdad as a peace gesture.

Iraq said President Saddam Hussein promised to free the Iranians released this week in response to an appeal by 255 Muslim clerics meeting in Baghdad this month.

An Iraqi Army doctor, who did not want to be identified, said the prisoners who left today were handed three days' medicine and medical reports on their condition.

President's rule ends in Tamil Nadu

Rajiv gains cold comfort from wins in two small states

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (UPI): The Congress (I) Party today won elections for the legislatures of two tiny northeastern states, after its rout in southern Tamil Nadu where voters dealt a major election year blow to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Results announced by All-India Radio for 54 of the 59 contests, held on Saturday for the 60-member Nagaland Assembly, showed Congress (I) Party won in 31 seats, with 23 places going to its main rival, the Naga Peoples Conference. Violence forced postponement of one race.

In nearby Mizoram, Rajiv's party snatched 22 places in the 40-seat assembly, and an ally took 18. The Mizo National Front, a former separatist guerrilla group that governed for seven months in 1987, took 14 constituencies, while one seat went to the Peoples Conference, the radio station said. One seat remained undecided.

Results

An official press release said the election results had prompted Rajiv to lift from Tamil Nadu and Mizoram the "president's rule," a provision under which New Delhi can impose direct rule on states that are politically unstable.

Officials said New Delhi would also relinquish its control over Nagaland when all election results were in from across the jungle-covered state of some 700,000 people on the Indo-Burmes frontier.

The central government took control of Nagaland last August and Mizoram in September 1987 when Rajiv dismissed the leg-

islatures of the tiny predominantly Christian states on India's far eastern wing after factional revolts within their ruling parties forced the collapse of their governments.

It also had been ruling Tamil Nadu since January in response to political turmoil that ensued after the December 1987 death of Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran.

Tamil Nadu Election Commission officials said the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) led by Muthuvel Karunanidhi secured a massive 147-seat majority in the 234-member house.

The Press Trust of India reported Rajiv telephoned Karunanidhi to congratulate him on his victory.

Rajiv's national image has been badly scarred by a string of state assembly and parliamentary by-election losses, allegations of corruption in defence deals, charges he favours India's tiny affluent classes over its impoverished millions and internal party feuds that drove several influential members into the opposition.

Officials said four parties allied with the DMK won 23 places, giving the 170-seat grouping a more than two-thirds majority that will enable it to amend the state constitution.

Captured

No date has been set for the swearing in of the DMK government, which will be headed by Karunanidhi, who served as chief minister during DMK rule in the state from 1967 to 1978.

The Congress (I) Party captured only 25 constituencies in a resounding defeat for Rajiv as he prepares for his first bid at re-election in parliamentary polls he must call before December.

Officials said 32 seats went to one faction of the former ruling All-India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and its allies, a grouping led by Ramachandran's former mistress, Jayalalitha.

They said another AIADMK faction led by Janaki Ramachandran, the late chief minister's widow, won one seat. Independent and smaller parties won three places, a Congress (I) Party ally took one, and two races were postponed by candidates' deaths, they reported.



Rajiv

3 killed in Sind ethnic clash

KARACHI, Jan 24 (Reuters): At least three people were shot dead and 14 wounded in ethnic violence in the southern Pakistani province of Sind today, police said.

They said a gunbattle between Mohajir immigrants from other parts of the subcontinent and Sindhis broke out in Sukkur after a row over the setting up of a students' union office at a college.

Bread riots break out in Afghan capital

ISLAMABAD, Jan 24 (Agencies): Afghanistan has been fighting each other for food in Kabul, hoarding and looting shops and an Army sergeant was shot dead in an argument over bread, Western diplomatic sources said today.

The sources said queues for food and fuel in the Afghan capital reached record levels early last week but were shorter by the weekend after the arrival of supplies from the Soviet Union.

Supplies

"A member of a local militia shot and killed an Army sergeant following an argument over how much bread the militiaman was entitled to buy," one of the sources said.

The diplomatic sources said Afghans also reported the death from cold of a child who had

stood for several hours in a queue for bread.

Under accords mediated by the United Nations and signed in Geneva last year, Soviet troops who have propped up the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan for nine years are to be out of the country by Feb 15.

The sources said some of the supplies brought by air and road were doled out around the city by Soviet soldiers, but they were often swamped by people wanting food.

"On several occasions, crowds of Afghans seeking free food and diesel fuel pressed too close to the Soviet soldiers and Afghan security troops responded by wading in with nightsticks," one said.

In one part of the capital three shops were looted by people who were tired of standing waiting to

buy flour. Afghans said several fights had broken out in bread queues.

On Jan 18 more than 500 people stood in bitter cold waiting for kerosene at fuel stations in the city, but by the end of the week queues had shortened following the arrival of several large fuel convoys.

Airlifted

The sources quoted government media report on hoarding. They said 54 cartons of cooking oil and 17 tons of rice, flour and vetch were reported seized during the past week.

In a report from Kabul, the official Soviet news agency Tass said 1,000 tonnes of flour had been airlifted to the city by today, making it possible to "quickly overcome the food crisis in the city."

"Another 2,500 tonnes are yet to be shipped but the pace of delivery keeps getting faster every day," Tass said.

"Fifteen planes touched down here yesterday, as compared with three on the operation's opening day."

The flour was being taken to government-run warehouses to provide a buffer against a further crisis before spring.

Heavy military ground and air traffic around Kabul indicates the final Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan is in full swing, Western diplomats said today.

Most Westerners still living in Afghanistan — mainly missionaries — have decided to leave the country, and the US embassy today warned Americans to get out. Some diplomatic sources predict Afghan President Najib would soon declare martial law.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- وفاقی حکومت اور پنجاب کے درمیان کوئی اختلاف نہیں بنیں پھر
- بلوچستان اسمبلی کی بحالی کے خلاف اہل کافر و اہل لے لگایا
- پاکستان کی فٹ بال ٹیم کو تہ تیغ کئے
- شیخ زائد بن سلطان النہیان پاکستان پہنچ گئے

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: slight to moderate

High water: 1.30 am, 8.00 pm

Low water: 8.30 am, 8.30 pm

Sunrise: 6.41 am

Sunset: 5.20 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Ahmad: 15°C 59°F

Fallaka: 15°C 59°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 9°C 48°F

Ahmad: 10°C 50°F

Fallaka: 11°C 52°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 17°C 63°F

Ahmad: 15°C 59°F

Fallaka: 16°C 61°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 46 per cent

Ahmad: 84 per cent

Fallaka: 90 per cent

Court order to stand

Baluchistan controversy ends

ISLAMABAD, Jan 24 (Agencies): The first major controversy of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's rule ended today when a provincial official declined to appeal a court decision that went against one of her allies.

A spokesman for the Baluchistan government said it would not appeal against a court order yesterday that restored the dissolved provincial assembly.

The assembly was suddenly dissolved last month and the opposition charged that Benazir

had conspired to keep an ally in power. Benazir rejected the accusations.

Four judges unanimously agreed that the dissolution of the legislature in Pakistan's largest but least populated province was unconstitutional and was done without lawful authority.

Baluchistan's advocate general filed an application to suspend the order and leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. He reversed that decision today saying he had no intention of filing an

appeal.

The desert province bordering Iran and Afghanistan has been governed by a caretaker chief minister since Dec 22, one week after Governor Mohammad Musa dissolved the assembly on the binding advice of Chief Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali.

The affair, which broke out two weeks after Benazir came to power following 11 years of military rule, sparked protest strikes in the Baluchistan capital, Quetta.

Pakistan may rejoin Commonwealth

KARACHI, Jan 24 (Reuters): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said today Pakistan was considering to rejoin the Commonwealth which it left in 1972.

"We are considering whether Pakistan should join the Commonwealth or not," she told reporters.

Her late father, then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, pulled Pakistan out of the organisation of former British colonies and dominions when other members recognised former East Pakistan as the new independent Bangladesh following a war in 1971.

Pakistan recognised Bangladesh in 1974 but did not seek readmission to the group.

The previous government of the late President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq said Pakistan could rejoin the group if there were a favourable consensus of other members. But the move was opposed by India, Pakistan's traditional rival.

Benazir said she did not raise the issue in her talks last month with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during a South Asian summit meeting in Islamabad.

"We are first considering Pakistan-wise whether we are interested or not," she said. "I am just preparing public opinion by raising this point whether there is a possibility or not."

Don't interfere, PLO tells US

KUWAIT, Jan 24 (Agencies): A high-ranking PLO official urged the Bush administration today not to interfere in Palestinian matters such as the establishment of a Palestinian state, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

Abdullah Hourani, a member of the executive committee of the PLO, spoke to KUNA from his headquarters in Tunis.

Reacting to US President Bush's call for a confederation between Jordan and the PLO, Hourani said: "This issue belongs only to the Palestinian people's will, and the US administration has nothing to do with it."

Hourani added: "The Palestinian people have the complete freedom to decide what form of relations they want with their Arab brothers."

Both the United States and Israel have called for greater co-operation between Jordan and the PLO, but Jordan this week rejected the American and Israeli

proposals.

Arab press reports say PLO leader Yasser Arafat is seeking an early meeting with US Secretary of State James Baker to press the need for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza.

Invite

Bush will invite a number of Arab leaders to Washington in March to discuss ways of finding a settlement for the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian question, press reports in Abu Dhabi said today.

The daily Al Itihad quoted an Arab official source in Rabat as saying that the American administration had contacted Arab capitals over the visits.

Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will be the first Arab leaders to visit Washington in response to Bush's invitation, the source added.

Arafat said yesterday that an Arab summit meeting should be

convened as a matter of urgency.

Arafat, interviewed on Baghdad television, said developments on the Palestinian question and the situation in Lebanon required "a unified Arab stand and an Arab plan decided by a summit meeting which must be held as quickly as possible."

Arafat, on a visit to Oman, has held talks with Sultan Qaboos.

Condemned

Meanwhile, both Britain and the PLO condemned the new repressive Israeli measures against the Palestinian uprising.

The condemnation came during talks held between Britain's Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave and the chief PLO information adviser, Bassam Abu Sharif, who is at present on a working visit to the UK.

Both UK and PLO also dismissed the Israeli offer for Palestinian elections to prepare for autonomy in West Bank and Gaza, according to British officials.

Khomeini 'wanted to end war' in 1982

NICOSIA, Jan 24 (Agencies): Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini wanted to halt the war with Iraq two years after it broke out in 1980, a former Iranian prime minister said in remarks published today.

In an interview with the Iranian press, Mehdi Bazargan, who headed Iran's first post-revolutionary government, said parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told him of Khomeini's desire to end the war in 1982.

"Mr Rafsanjani said we want to stop the war at this stage because the Imam (Khomeini) also has the same opinion and the Iraqi regime also wants peace," Bazargan told the Tehran Times and Daily Abar, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

"In all our pleas, Rafsanjani told us that we should not worry as he said 'we are also thinking the same way'," Bazargan said.

Bazargan said the meeting with Rafsanjani took place after Iranian forces pushed Iraqi troops out of Khorramshahr port and large areas of occupied territory in Iran.

Declared

Until August last year when a ceasefire was finally declared, Khomeini urged Iranians to press on with the war as a religious duty. He compared accepting the ceasefire with drinking poison.

The Tehran Times said it asked Rafsanjani for comment and was told by his office that he remembered the meeting but could not recall what was discussed.

Bazargan did not say why Khomeini did not seek a peace settlement in 1982.

Experts will be allowed to inspect Libyan plant

LONDON, Jan 24 (Reuters): Libyan authorities have agreed to allow independent experts to inspect a factory which the United States says has been built to produce chemical weapons, a British delegation which visited Libya said yesterday.

Opposition Labour Party Member of Parliament Ron Brown and Dr Anthony Clayton, an associate at Edinburgh University's centre for human ecology, travelled to Tripoli to ask the Libyans to permit such an inspection.

Libya has insisted the plant at Rabta near Tripoli is intended to produce pharmaceuticals.

"Libyan authorities said they will allow chemical engineers to inspect the Rabta plant at an open day in March," Clayton said.

He and Brown received this assurance during an interview with a vice-co-ordinator of international affairs at the Libyan Foreign Ministry.

Brown said: "It wouldn't just be a media show. Officials made it quite clear that experts would be allowed in."

Foreign journalists were taken to see the plant earlier this month, but the trip took place around dusk and the only building they were able to enter was a cafeteria.

Clayton said he believed the controversy would only be resolved after an inspection by qualified experts.

"We got a fairly unambiguous statement of intent," he added. "It remains to be seen what level of access they actually allow."

General strike paralyses Bangladesh

DHAKA, Jan 24 (UPI): One opposition activist, injured by a bomb explosion yesterday during the campaign in Chittagong for today's nationwide general strike in demand for President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's resignation, died in hospital, police sources said.

A coalition of seven parties led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami, which organised the strike at rallies all over Bangladesh, have demanded Ershad's resignation and new elections under a neutral,

DAY BY DAY

A LONG time has gone by with the current cabinet in office: it is time to induce new blood to it.

The coming stage requires a new cabinet in order to review and improve some laws and decisions.

By this, we do not infer that the present government or the previous one did not achieve or fulfill these duties, but a new spirit is needed if we are really interested in enhancing and streamlining work.

New blood usually carries a spirit of change in government decisions.

Zahed Matar

(Continued on Page 2)

Killer Bundy executed in electric chair

STARKE, Fla., Jan 24, (Reuters): Serial killer Theodore Bundy, America's most notorious death row inmate, died in Florida's electric chair today after confessing to the murders of nearly two dozen young women, witnesses said.

After nearly 10 years of imprisonment, Bundy, 42, was put to death at around noon GMT at Florida state prison for the 1978 murder of a 12-year-old girl.

Bundy, a handsome law-school dropout believed to have charmed his way into the confidence of his victims before killing them, was executed only hours after the US Supreme Court denied a last-minute request for a stay.

Inspired
Bundy, whose murder acts inspired a television film and a half-dozen books, refused his last meal of steak and eggs and spent his final hours praying with a Methodist minister in the "death watch" cell only 30 feet (10 metres) from Florida's three-legged electric chair, prison officials said.

He spoke by phone with his mother in Tacoma, Washington state, but received no visits from family members.

Around 150 pro-death penalty demonstrators were on hand outside the prison walls as Bundy was led to the death chamber and strapped into the chair nicknamed "Old Sparky."

A neon sign on top of a truck near the prison said "Bundy, fry in hell." A few hundred yards (metres) down the road, a vendor was doing a brisk business selling "Burn Bundy Burn" T-shirts.

Rampage
After nearly a decade of silence, Bundy spent his final days meeting with investigators from five Western states and detailing his long-suspected murder rampage there in the 1970s.

Bundy, who was convicted of three murders in Florida, confessed over the past weekend to killing at least 22 young women. He had long been the prime suspect in nearly three dozen unsolved murders and disappearances.

Prison officials said Bundy, normally cool and confident, showed fearful remorse for the first time as he confessed to the killings.

President Botha

CAPE TOWN, Jan 24, (Reuters): South African President P.W. Botha was discharged from a Cape Town hospital today, six days after suffering a mild stroke.

"The state President was released at 1 pm (1100 GMT). He is now going for six weeks' recuperation at Westbrooke (his Cape Town home)," a spokeswoman for the President's office said.

Bush tells demonstrators

Court decision on abortion is wrong and should be overturned

WASHINGTON, Jan 24, (Agencies): President Bush, declaring "God bless life," told about 65,000 anti-abortion demonstrators yesterday the Supreme Court decision making most abortions legal is "wrong and should be overturned."

Bush, speaking through a telephone hookup to a cheering, almost festive crowd of activists gathered on the ellipse — still decorated with bunting and other remnants of last week's inaugural celebrations — called for a "human life amendment" to the constitution that would overturn the controversial 1973 Roe vs Wade ruling — a decision the court is currently reconsidering.

Dispersed
Four hours later, after a march to the Supreme Court and Capitol Hill, the demonstrators dispersed peacefully in late afternoon.

Police reported no arrests at the court as the protesters abandoned — for the time being at least — their strategy of civil disobedience. In years past, they have held non-violent pray-ins on the court steps, in violation of a ban on demonstrations at the ornate building just east of the Capitol.

However, about 150 people were arrested without incident for blocking the entrance to a Washington abortion clinic, police said.

"The march has ended," organiser Nellie Gray told the throng, "but your work is just beginning. Lobby your congressmen and senators hard."

In his remarks to the crowd just south of the White House, Bush said, "I know there are people of goodwill who disagree, but after years of sober and serious reflection on the issue, this is

what I think — I think the Supreme Court's decision... was wrong and should be overturned. "I promise you that the President hears you now and stands with you in a cause that must be won." Bush said, his voice broadcast over loudspeakers. "God bless you and God bless life."

Coincidence
Police estimated about 65,000 gathered for the rally and march to the Supreme Court in Balmi, almost spring-like weather.

Despite Bush's encouraging words, Gray, organizer of the annual "march for life" staged to coincide with the anniversary of the 16-year-old ruling, said she was less than satisfied with Bush's statement.

Noting a contingent of anti-abortion leaders met with Vice President Quayle earlier, Gray said the group told the new vice-president they wanted "action" not just "wonderful words."

Thanked
Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev talked by telephone yesterday, stressing Soviet-US relations, Tass said.

The Tass report also said the two leaders "touched upon a number of specific issues," but the official Soviet news agency gave no details.

Bush, Tass said, thanked Gorbachev for sending congratulations on Bush's inauguration as President.

Bush said "he will continue the course toward broadening cooperation and deepening mutual understanding for the benefit of the two countries and the entire international community," Tass reported.

Gorbachev for his part said "he attached great importance to Soviet-American relations," Tass said.

Rabin plans to bar Arabs from work in Israel

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Jan 24, (Reuters): Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today he was considering barring Palestinians who took part in protests from working in Israel.

He told members of a parliamentary committee that Palestinians earned some \$600 million a year from jobs in Israel. "We are treating it as a privilege, not a right," participants at the meeting of the foreign affairs and defence committee quoted Rabin as saying.

About 105,000 Palestinians are employed in Israel, more than half of them unregistered, according to the Labour Ministry.

Responding to criticism of the Army's newly-relaxed criteria

for firing at protesters, which has led to record casualties, Rabin told parliamentarians that troops must order suspects to halt and then fire at the lower part of the body if they disobeyed.

He said it was forbidden to fire at women and children.

Palestinian sources said troops shot and wounded at least seven Arab protesters, including two women and a 12-year-old boy, in the Gaza Strip as businesses throughout the occupied territories closed today.

The strike was called by the uprising's clandestine leadership in protest at the demolition of the homes of Arabs suspected of violence.

25 killed in fierce fighting

Police surround Argentine rebels

LA TABLADA, Argentina, Jan 24, (Reuters): Three hundred police marksmen backed by Army helicopters today surrounded two rebel snipers holding out near an Army barracks between guerrillas and government forces.

Sporadic shooting broke out between police and snipers who took up positions on a water tower and rooftop near the La Tablada barracks on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, which had been seized by an armed group yesterday.

Shooting
Three other snipers were arrested earlier in an outbreak of shooting shortly after President Raul Alfonsin arrived to tour the base. A radio station reported a fourth sniper died in the exchange of fire.

Alfonsin, who was well out of the line of fire, continued his tour of the shell-torn compound where shattered buildings, crushed cars and charred lawns were evidence of yesterday's battle. The President left shortly afterwards.

Fourteen surviving members of the 50-strong guerrilla group which had seized the barracks surrendered this morning, ending the main action although police and soldiers continued to search the base systematically to flush out any remaining.

The 14 rebels, including a wounded woman, emerged from a shell-damaged building with their hands above their heads. One waved a white shirt in a gesture of surrender as soldiers aimed rifles at the rebels, most of them bare-chested and wearing shorts.

The Army announced over loud speakers that any other rebels still in the compound should surrender and that their safety was guaranteed.

Until nightfall yesterday the Army used tanks, mortars, armoured cars and heavy machine guns to bombard buildings occupied by the rebels who replied with grenades, rockets and automatic rifle fire. Sporadic



A plainclothes policeman is removed after being wounded by an anti-tank grenade while attempting to retake the La Tablada base. (Reuters wirephoto)

sniper fire continued throughout the night.

Government sources said 25 people, including four soldiers, died in a pitched battle yesterday.

Local news agencies reported that around 15 rebels were still holding out at dawn today.

When they seized the unit the rebels scattered pamphlets saying they were members of a right-wing "New Argentine Army," but a leading politician from the governing Radical Party said they were from the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), a

left-wing guerrilla group active in the 1970s.

Director of the state information department Facundo Suarez said it was impossible to identify "in a responsible and serious way the ideological leaning of the group."

Recaptured
The group burst into the La Tablada unit just after dawn yesterday, ramming the main gates with a stolen Coca Cola truck and lobbing grenades at buildings where off-duty soldiers were sleeping.

Fierce fighting as troops and police recaptured La Tablada base, 20 miles (30 km) west of the capital, left at least nine dead. Some local news agencies put the death toll at 20 to 30.

The attackers, including a number of women, scattered pamphlets saying they were members of the "New Argentine Army" which planned to combat Marxist subversion within the government and expressing support for the leaders of Argentina's three Army rebellions since April 1987.

Salvador Dali's body embalmed

FIGUERAS, Spain, Jan 24, (Reuters): Surrealist Salvador Dali, who stunned the world with his dream-like paintings and extravagant lifestyle, died with a flourish — demanding that his body be preserved for posterity.

His body goes on display today with controversy still raging over his place in the history of art.

Dali's butler Arturo Caminada wept as he waxed for the last time the famous moustache of the painter who died in hospital yesterday aged 84. Doctor Narcis Bardolet then began embalming the body of the flamboyant artist and said his technique would preserve it for up to 300

years. Figueras Mayor Mariano Loreca said Dali had asked him privately two months ago to have his body embalmed and buried under the centre of the huge steel and glass dome of his art museum.

Display
Dali's body will be put on public display until the funeral tomorrow afternoon. Workers started preparing his grave, including a tombstone with no name, two days before he died.

Controversy raged about the last of the generation of surrealist painters who took the art world by storm in the 1930s. An exhibitionist who loved to shock,

Dali sought to impose a hallucinatory vision on reality and transform it with fantastic shapes and juxtapositions.

French Culture Minister Jack Lang called him a "giant." Art dealers and critics accused him of flooding the market with cheap reproductions and failing to stop the sale of fakes.

New York art dealer Richard Feiger called him "a sad social climbing figure." US art critic Hilton Kramer said: "His principal contribution to the art world after the surrealist phase was to set a deplorable model for artists to give priority to publicity over their artistic achievements."

Man tries to set fire to Raphael painting

VATICAN CITY, Jan 24, (AP): A man in a wheelchair attempted to set fire to a 16th century Raphael masterpiece in the Vatican museum today, setting ablaze a flammable liquid he tossed at the painting, Vatican officials said.

But museum guards quickly put out the fire and the painting, the Madonna of Foligno, was not damaged, said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro. The man, identified as about 30 years old and speaking only English, was being questioned by Vatican police. Navarro described him as "showing signs of being handicapped, also mentally."

The incident occurred at about 9:40 am (0840 GMT) in the Vatican picture gallery, which contains some of Raphael's most famous works.

Measures
The painting, which the man tried to set ablaze, was created between 1512-13 and measures 10 feet by 6 1/2 feet (308 centimetres by 198 centimetres).

The painting depicts the Madonna with child seated on clouds above a sphere surrounded by Cherubs. Beneath are shown saints John the Baptist, Francis and Jerome. In the distance are the Umbrian town of Foligno with a descending cannonball and a rainbow signifying peace.

Navarro said the man, who had been noticed by guards in the museum in previous days, got up from his wheelchair and took out a thermos, tossing the liquid towards the painting.

The liquid landed on the floor and wall beneath the painting, and the man then tossed a lit match to set it ablaze, Navarro said.

Damage
Two museum guards immediately extinguished the flames, which did not reach the painting, he said. But museum officials took down the work as a precaution to check for possible smoke damage. It was to be back on display tomorrow.

Navarro said the man also was carrying two spray bombs of the type used for personal defence and another bottle of an unidentified liquid.

Brown jailed

AUGUSTA, Georgia, Jan 24, (Reuters): Singer James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul," was sentenced to six years in jail after pleading guilty to charges stemming from a high-speed car chase in parts of two states.

The new sentence is to run concurrently with a six-year term he is already serving in South Carolina for the same incident.

New quake hits Armenia

MOSCOW, Jan 24, (Reuters): Residents of Soviet Tajikistan braced for after-shocks today but authorities said the death toll from an earthquake and landslide was apparently lower than the original estimate of 1,000.

Residents of one village heard the roar of the approaching landslide — a wall of mud triggered by yesterday morning's quake — and fled before it struck. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said.

"In Okulibolo, many villagers heard the noise of the slide and escaped. About a third of those earlier thought to be dead (in the village) escaped," Gerasimov told a news conference.

He said most of the victims were killed by the torrent of mud and not the quake, which measured seven on the Soviet 12-point Mercalli scale. The quake itself did not cause widespread destruction.

But he did not give a more exact death count. Soviet media have estimated the toll at up to 1,000 based on the population of the villages hit by the tremor.

Caused
The epicentre was about 50 km (30 miles) southwest of the republic's capital, Dushanbe, near the Afghan border.

A strong new quake hit Armenia today but caused no damage or injury, the Soviet news agency Tass said.

The Armenian tremor, measuring six on the Soviet scale, had its epicentre northwest of Kirovakan, one of the cities badly damaged in last month's quake which killed at least 25,000 people.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said after-shocks could cause more landslides in Tajikistan. It said a thaw in the mountains softened the ground just before the quake struck.

Damage was estimated in the millions of roubles (dollars), Tass said this evening. As rescue teams rushed to the quake zone, thousands of volunteers worked furiously with shovels to find survivors. There was a shortage of digging equipment, Tass said, repeating a complaint common during the early aftermath of the Dec 7 earthquake in Armenia.

Reports varied on the number of survivors pulled free. Kommolskaya Pravda said eight people were found alive yesterday. Tass said only one person had been discovered so far.

General strike paralyses Bangladesh

(Continued from Page 1)

caretaker government.

In demonstrations called by the opposition alliance, protesters today threw bombs and rocks during battles with police that left 15 people injured, officials and witnesses said.

Ershad, who took over power in a bloodless coup in 1982, won a five-year term in 1986 presidential polls which opposition said were rigged. He is the longest serving leader of Bangladesh.

A coalition of eight parties led by the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, did not join the general strike that paralysed the nation for eight hours, but observed the day as "Chittagong killing day." On this date last year a number of opposition activists were killed by police firing on a procession of eight parties at Chittagong.

The work stoppage left shops and businesses closed and vehicles off the road throughout Dhaka, the capital and other major urban centres, and police and witnesses reported violence flared when students from Dhaka University staged a rally.

Leftists kill Greek prosecutor

ATHENS, Jan 24, (Reuters): Leftist urban guerrillas shot dead a Supreme Court prosecutor in the third attack on Greek law officials this month.

The Greek cabinet was summoned to an emergency session after two masked gunmen on a motorcycle pumped five bullets into Anastasios Venarhos, 61, outside his house in central Athens.

Pamphlets left at the scene last night's killing said Venarhos was shot by the extreme left-wing group "Revolutionary Organisation May First."

Attacks
"Today's killing and the two previous attacks against law officials in a short period of time must make us think of the motives and the aims they serve," Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said in a statement.

The shootings began on Jan 10 when state prosecutor Costas Androulidakis was hit by three bullets in the legs. He is still in a critical condition.



Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

Malaysian premier undergoes heart surgery

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 24, (Reuters): Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad underwent heart surgery today and his condition is stable, general hospital director Dr C.S.A. Fonseka said.

He told the national news agency, Bernama, that doctors decided to perform a coronary bypass on Mahathir based on most recent medical tests. It gave no other details.

Mahathir, 63, was admitted to hospital on Jan 18 with chest pain. Official statements released by the hospital over the past week said the pains were caused by an inadequate supply of blood to the heart.

Medical sources said Mahathir, who took office in 1981, had suffered a heart attack.

Primary Industries Minister Lim Keng Yaik told Reuters today he was barred from visiting Mahathir over the weekend.

"He is supposed to be completely resting in bed," he said.

Stocks
Malaysian stocks fell across the board after brokers heard of the operation.

The Kuala Lumpur stock exchange composite index fell 4.08 points to 372.53 in morning trading compared to Monday's total fall of 0.41 points, brokers said.

"Everybody is worried about the prime minister's condition," said Lena Yong of PB Securities.

Mahathir, a Muslim Malay, strengthened his nation's role in international affairs giving priority to its ties with the non-communist Association of South East Asian Nations and fellow Islamic countries.

He emphasised stronger economic and technical co-operation with less-developed countries in Asia and his overseas missions included visits to south Pacific states, the Indian sub-continent and China.

At home, Mahathir pursued the goal of taking Malaysia into the ranks of industrialised countries, stepped up "Malaysianisation" of its vast plantations and established an anti-corruption agency.



Amal leader Nabih Berri leaving Syrian Foreign Ministry after talks with Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers on ending Shiite fighting in Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

4 killed as Shiites resume fighting

BEIRUT, Jan 24, (AP): Rival Shiite Muslim militias battled in south Lebanon before dawn today while their leaders met with Syrian and Iranian officials in Damascus to seek an end to the bloodshed.

Police said four people were killed and 14 wounded in the fighting between the Syrian-backed Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah.

That raised the casualty toll since the latest spasm of violence erupted Dec 31 to at least 172 killed and 332 wounded.

The fighting began with artillery exchanges late yesterday, shattering a four-day ceasefire.

It centred around Hezbollah's stronghold in the southern panhandle on the western edge of Israel's self-designated "security zone."

A police spokesman said both sides launched attacks against each other's positions, but neither gained any territory.

The fighting died down into intermittent mortar exchanges around daybreak.

Amal said in a statement that Hezbollah fighters started the fighting by attacking its positions in the hamlets of Kfar Filla and Jarjoua west of Beirut.

of the triangular-shaped mountain enclave controlled by the Iranian-backed militia.

The communiqué warned Amal against "maintaining a hostile attitude and blocking efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement."

The fighting undermined the talks in the Syrian capital, with Syria and Iran striving to find a peace formula acceptable to their proxies.

Syria's Foreign Minister, Farouk Al Sharana and his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, held a series of meetings with Amal leader Nabih Berri and Hezbollah representatives, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Amin and Hussein Musavi.

Berri told reporters that Amal will not agree to a settlement until Hezbollah handed over the assassins of three Amal commanders.

Amal has accused the Iranian-backed fundamentalists of killing Daoud Daoud, its leader in south Lebanon, and two senior lieutenants in a street ambush in south Beirut on Sept 22. Hezbollah denies that.

Hezbollah's Shiite zealots advocate the creation of an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon.

Ex-premier to build up opposition party

Iranian regime faces threat

NICOSIA, Jan 24, (AP): Former Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, leader of the country's token opposition, says he plans to build his tiny, much-harassed party into a national movement to challenge the political establishment. Iran's official news agency reported today.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, said that Bazargan told the English-language Tehran Times daily in his first interview in seven years that his Freedom Movement would also name a candidate in August's presidential election "if political ... are favourable."

Optimism

"We will organise the party at all levels throughout the country so that we can present our plans to the people ... who will give their verdict," he said.

"If that verdict is in our favour, we will naturally have the right to form a government," Bazargan was quoted as saying.

The remarks by the 81-year-old veteran politician, the first Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic after the 1979 revolution, appeared to be highly optimistic considering the strength of the main factions in the Tehran hierarchy.

But the fact that Bazargan, who has been out in the cold for nine years, was given a public platform clearly sanctioned by the authorities underlined efforts by Iranian leaders to ease political restrictions following the August ceasefire in the war against Iraq.

His moderate Freedom Movement, a frequent critic of the Gulf war, is one of 28 groups which have applied to register as political parties under a Dec 31 law approving the formation of political organisations, providing they do not conspire against the state.

Since Khomeini abolished the ruling Islamic Republic Party two years ago, the Freedom Movement has been the only

recognised party in Iran. There are no official parties within the hierarchy, but there are several factions which revolve around leading figures which operate like parties.

The new law is part of a post-war move toward liberalising Iran's political and social life, heavily restricted during the war.

A voice

Ayatollah Khomeini's regime apparently hopes that giving moderate opponents a voice will isolate more extremist factions. But the new political framework is to be tightly controlled.

Bazargan said he was ready to exchange views with government officials, the Tehran Times reported.

"I'm not hostile to anybody and I keep political matters concerning the country away from personal matters," he said.

Khomeini named Bazargan, a French-educated engineer, prime minister Feb 25, 1979, a few days after the revolutionaries

took power.

Bazargan, a 30-year political veteran, had supported Khomeini in his struggle to topple Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. But his moderate policies, seeking gradual social and economic reforms, ran foul of the fundamentalist forces.

Lacking authority and accused by his opponents of being pro-American, he resigned two days after militants stormed the US Embassy in Tehran Nov 4, 1979.

The Freedom Movement contested the first parliamentary elections after the revolution in 1980 and won six of the 270 seats.

But, charging that there was no political freedom in Iran, Bazargan's group did not run in the 1984 and 1988 elections. His party's newspaper, Mizan, was closed down in 1981.

After years of harassment, the Freedom Party's headquarters in Tehran were closed by the authorities seven months ago and eight of its senior officials jailed.

Reforms in China blamed for crime wave

BEIJING, Jan 24, (Reuters): China, which for decades has claimed to be one of the world's most law-abiding countries, said today that crime had soared in 1988, largely because of economic reforms.

The overall crime rate was 45 per cent higher than in 1987 and the number of serious offences, 203,000, rose by more than 65 per cent compared with 1987, the official China Daily quoted a senior police officer as saying. The 1987 crime figures were themselves far higher than in previous years.

The wave of lawlessness is most acute in large cities and coastal zones opened to the outside world during the 1980s, it quoted Deputy Minister of Public Security Yu Lei as saying.

Yu said one reason was the appearance of a new 50-million-strong class of transients, which had created more opportunities for theft, robbery and fraud. Until the 1980s most Chinese were severely restricted from travel.

Violent crime had risen fast along with drug smuggling and counterfeiting involving overseas gangs. Organised crime would be one of the priority targets for police in 1989, he added.

"You doubted it would be possible to return to the very low crime rate that prevailed in the 1950s and 60s, when China was closed to the outside world and had an underdeveloped commodity economy," the newspaper said.

The official New China News Agency last week quoted party leader Zhao Ziyang as saying an increase in crime, and especially official corruption, was inevitable during Beijing's transition to a "new economic order" based on market forces.

South China's freewheeling Canton, where capitalist-style economic reforms have had more impact than perhaps anywhere else, last week executed 17 criminals to combat a growing crime wave blamed on migrants to the city.

The China Daily quoted Yu as saying police solved 75 per cent of all crimes in 1988, a detection rate far higher than in most Western countries.

AIDS can also spread through acupuncture

NEW YORK, Jan 24, (Reuters): The AIDS virus may be spread through acupuncture or oral sex, methods which had not been previously recognised, according to two letters in this week's New England Journal of Medicine.

While the writers acknowledged that the individual cases they reported were extremely rare, they said health professionals and the general public should be made aware of the possibility of AIDS transmission through such means.

Doctors from two hospitals in France wrote to the journal about a 17-year-old boy who tested positive for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) after undergoing acupuncture for tendonitis he developed playing rugby.

"The patient had never had sexual intercourse. He did not have haemophilia and had never had a (blood) transfusion," they wrote, mentioning the most common ways AIDS can be spread. "He was not an intravenous drug user, had no tattoo and had not been in jail."

"We believe the seroconversion in this patient was due to acupuncture because the clinical symptoms were compatible with acute HIV infection and because immunologic features suggested an early infection," wrote doctors from Hospital Necker in Paris and Hospital Charles Foix in Ivory, France.

"We believe that the incidence of HIV transmission by acupuncture is very low. However, acupuncturists should be aware of this risk. It is possible that the use of unsterilised needles led to seroconversion in our patient."

Two doctors from the Lahey Clinic Medical Centre in Burlington, Massachusetts, Peter G. Spitzer and Neil J. Weinder, told the journal of a 60-year-old man they believed was exposed to the AIDS virus through repeated oral sex with a female prostitute.

They, too, ruled out the generally recognised methods of AIDS transmission.

Lack of evidence led to release of soldiers

Filipino Army mutineers acquitted

MANILA, Jan 24, (AP): A military court acquitted 41 soldiers of mutiny and other charges, ruling there wasn't enough evidence that they were the troops who stormed an Army camp and held 50 people hostage, officials said today.

Manila newspapers said chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa later ordered the soldiers released, but the reports could not be immediately confirmed because military spokesmen were unavailable.

Col. Jose Reyes, the military prosecutor, said in a telephone interview that 33 of the defendants were acquitted last November and the remaining eight were cleared the following month in secret proceedings.

Reyes said that in clearing all the defendants, a five-member court ruled there was not enough evidence and that the prosecution had failed to present witnesses

who could positively identify the mutineers.

"As far as I am concerned, I presented evidence, but they came out with a decision like that," Reyes added. "What can I do?"

The ruling and De Villa's reported release order were disclosed following protests in the wake of last month's acquittal of a colonel accused of involvement in a failed coup attempt against President Corason Aquino on Jan 27, 1987.

Protests

In that case, De Villa immediately ordered the release of Col. Rolando Abadilla, triggering protests that he acted hastily without giving Aquino a chance to review the case as military commander-in-chief.

Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordenez, one of those critical of

De Villa's action, said that, unlike in civil courts, decisions of military courts are subject to review by the President.

Several civilian followers of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos are being tried separately by a civilian court in the April 18, 1987, attack on Fort Bonifacio, the suburban Manila headquarters of the Philippine Army.

In the Jan 1987 coup attempt, about seven soldiers and civilians, firing guns, crashed a truck through the camp's gates and freed prisoners. Marcos supporters also were behind the coup attempt.

After other troops joined them, the mutineers occupied the headquarters building, took about 50 civilian employees and bystanders hostage and exchanged gunfire with loyal troops. One of the mutineers was killed, officials said.

Kampuchean premier flies to Bangkok

BANGKOK, Jan 24, (Reuters): Kampuchean Premier Hun Sen left Phnom Penh for Bangkok today for talks with Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan on a peaceful settlement of his country's problems, the state news agency SPK said.

In a report monitored in Bangkok, SPK said Hun Sen, head of a government Thailand does not recognise, was accompanied by Defence Minister Tie Banh and other top-ranking officials.

His trip was part of whirlwind diplomatic initiatives on Kampuchea sparked by Vietnam's announcement in early January that it would withdraw all its troops from the country by September if a political settlement was reached. Hanoi says it has 50,000 troops remaining in Kampuchea.

Talks

Hun Sen told reporters he was prepared to hold talks with United States officials on the issue of US servicemen listed as missing in action in Kampuchea during the Indochina war, SPK said. He said Bangkok could be a venue for the talks.

Chatichai told reporters he could not say if the Kampuchean premier would be in Bangkok today or tomorrow, but Hun Sen will have talks with him, Foreign

Minister Siddhi Savetsila and Army chief General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh.

An American diplomat said there had been no prior contacts with Kampuchea officials for a discussion of the MIA issue during Hun Sen's visit to Bangkok. Ninety-one American servicemen are listed as missing in action in Kampuchea.

SPK said apart from exchanging views on the process restoring peace in Kampuchea, Hun Sen would also discuss bilateral relations and regional issues of common concern with Thai leaders.

Diplomats said Hun Sen's visit to Thailand would give him respectability and put pressure on the squabbling tripartite coalition fighting his Vietnamese-backed government to fall in line with the peace process or risk being left out.

The coalition partners still have to hammer out a joint stand. Diplomats said the heightened activity towards a political settlement could galvanise them into action.

Following his talks with Hun Sen, Chatichai will visit the Philippines for three days from Thursday to brief President Corason Aquino on the latest Kampuchean developments. Last week Chatichai paid a visit to Indonesia for talks with President Suharto on the issue.

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All invited to celebrate National Day

By Lima Al Khalafawi

ALL citizens and expatriates have been invited to participate in Kuwait's 28th National Day celebrations, according to Rida Al Feeli, Assistant Undersecretary of Foreign Information at the Ministry of Information.

A special committee headed by Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Sabah, has been appointed to prepare for the celebrations. The preparations will begin on Feb 1, 1989 and regular meetings are being held to prepare the programme, Feeli said.

The official added that within the next two weeks, flags, posters and the like will be distributed.

On Feb 25, Kuwait will be illuminated. Lights will shine on all of the major buildings and private companies will build monuments to commemorate the occasion.

The official declared that the 28th anniversary will be celebrated on a large scale as 1989 is a year of peace.

Saudis not bound to any country: Fahd

RIYADH, Jan 24, (KUNA): King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has affirmed that his country is not bound to any country or to any secret or public agreement to purchase advanced weapons for its armed forces.

The Saudi monarch added in a speech delivered yesterday during his visit to the military city named after him, in the eastern region of Saudi Arabia, that his country will not accept interference in its affairs and will not allow anyone to create problems.

He noted that Saudi Arabia did not try to harm anyone or interfere in any other country's affairs.

King Fahd expressed regret over the criticism of Saudi Arabia by some Arab and non-Arab newspapers, describing such criticism as "hidden hatred."

He said that he would not take this criticism seriously because the strength of the Saudi government comes from the support of the people who know everything of the government.

Renal failure seminar held

THE Kuwaiti Organ Transplant Society organised a seminar on renal failure.

Speaking at the seminar, Dr Kamel Al Rasheed attributed renal failure to lack of sufficient blood supply to the kidneys which resulted in bleeding or a sharp reduction of liquids in the body.

He also indicated that kidneys failed due to the closing of the urethra by stones and tumours.

Rasheed added that many cases of renal failure are being discovered accidentally or by other medical specialists. The increases in number of renal failures in Kuwait is due to different accidents that cause injuries and bleeding and the use of different drugs, Rasheed said.

He called on patients to visit physicians when they feel pain in the urethra or tumidity around their eyes.

Indian envoy meets Sharhan

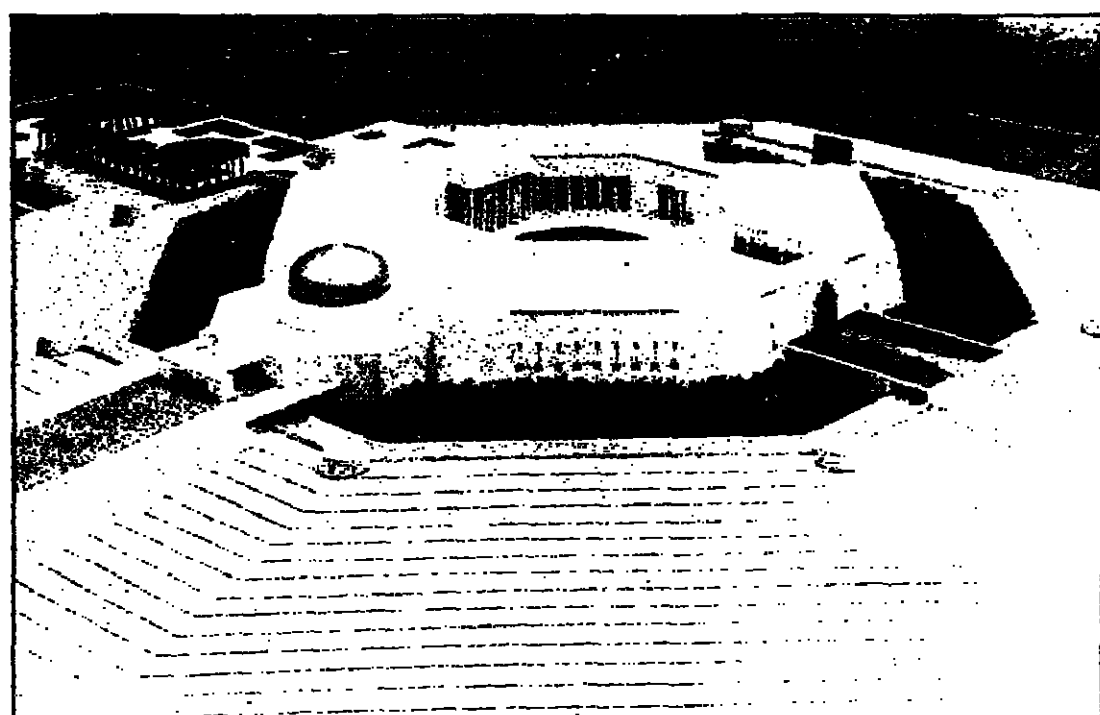
THE Minister of Communications, Abdullah Abdul Mohsen Al Sharhan, yesterday met with the Indian Ambassador, Nandana Nath Jha, at his office. They discussed matters of mutual interest and means to further strengthen co-operation between the two countries.

Kuwait International's inauguration party



ON the occasion of the official inauguration of the Kuwait International Hotel, the Minister of Finance, Jassem Al Khorafi was the guest of honour at a party held at the Grand Ballroom of the hotel.

Government dignitaries, high ranking officials of Kuwaiti institutions and leading business-



Tarek Al Jeddah's award-winning design.

Kuwait-based engineer wins Iraqi Presidency Palace design award

By Nashat Al Agha

TAREK AL JEDDAH, an Iraqi engineer who owns the Kuwaiti based Al Zemmami Engineering Consulting Bureau, has been awarded the first prize for designing the Al Qasbiyah Edifice (Presidency Palace) to be built in Baghdad.

A total of 52 Iraqi engineers participated in the design competition and Jeddah took first prize, a cash prize amounting to KD50,000.

The prize was handed over to Jeddah by Taher Mahmoud Hassoun, the Iraqi Minister of Housing and Reconstruction, on behalf of the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Inspiration
Accepting the prize, Jeddah said that the competition was a demonstration of national architecture and the first of its kind in the Arab world. He added that inspiration for the project design had been taken from the rich heritage of Iraq.

The competition was designed for participation by Iraqi engineering bureaus in association with international engineering bureaus.

Jeddah said that his office had formed a committee of engineers

and that he was the co-ordinator and designer of this operation. The Yugoslavia based engineering bureau, MGM had participated in the design process.

Jeddah said that project requirements had been set up by a specialised Iraqi committee familiar with the requirements of the Presidency Palace. This palace will be the official seat of Saddam. He added that the design depicted Iraqi history from the Babylonian era through Arab and Islamic civilisation and also represented the future.

Heritage
He disclosed that Saddam has signified his desire for projecting Arab and Iraqi heritage in the project. He added that the President said that this project should be an artistic edifice that embodied the new renaissance of Iraq, its victories and its future in addition to its role in human civilisation.

The edifice will have eight entry ways which will be named after various Arab states: Baghdad Gate, Makkah Gate, Damascus Gate, Palestine Gate, Gulf Gate, Yemen Gate, Maghreb Gate and Nile Valley Gate.

The design committee have lauded the historical touch of Jeddah's design, especially the symbolism of the two canals

along the main entrance of the palace which represent the well-known Iraqi Rivers Tigris and Euphrates in addition to its estuary which is represented in the design by the river mouth at the tip of a pool representing the Arabian Gulf.

Feelings
Explaining his feelings on receiving the prize, he said he felt a great sense of achievement and elation on being selected, and added that the prize represented Saddam's interest in architecture as part of the country's civilisation.

Speaking of Kuwait's architecture, Jeddah praised the progress achieved in this field, which depends mainly on Arab and Islamic heritage. His bureau, he added, was involved in the designs of the central post office, and the Khaldiya University expansion in addition to a number of palaces. Contracts with his bureau are estimated at KD40 million.

In conclusion, Jeddah said that his bureau has been invited to participate in the Agha Khan architectural competition for 1989, the prize of which will be organised by the Arab Cities Organisation, in addition to the Grand Mosque competition in Baghdad.

GCC traffic directors to meet February 20

TRAFFIC directors at the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states will hold their seventh meeting in Abu Dhabi on Feb 20th and 21st.

Col. Musaed Al Saleh, head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the conference, and director of the General Traffic Department at the Ministry of Interior, said that the meeting will discuss a number of issues on general secretariat reports, the interior minister's

decision concerning traffic and a unified traffic system.

Saleh added that the meeting will discuss the issue of the unified driving licences plan for GCC states and will review the GCC Traffic Week of 1988.

The Kuwaiti delegation comprises also of Capt. Abdullah Abdul Karim Al Aidan and Capt. Fuad Abdullah Erihan from the Capital Traffic Department.

Road Safety Society holds desert seminar

"REALISING traffic security and safety in the desert" was discussed in a seminar held by Kuwait's Road Safety Society, Monday.

Saad Al Otaibi, Controller of Public Relations at Kuwait Municipality said that the municipality exerted its utmost to serve desert campers and had removed all sand barricades which impeded traffic movement.

He added that the Municipality removed scrap cars from the desert and sprayed water in the camping areas so as to avoid rising dust. It also took legal action against unlicensed grocers found within the camping areas.

The official called on citizens

to co-operate with the Municipality to keep the desert clean.

Akram Al Najjar, Director of Organisation Department at the Municipality, said that camping in the desert was an old Kuwaiti tradition, which should be preserved.

He called for allocating organised areas for camping and constructing necessary roads to avoid increasing dust. He said that relevant areas in the desert should be designated as camp areas.

The official called for fixing traffic guide posts to allow campers to easy access.

Najjar praised the idea of Wafra Oasis, which was suggested by the Ahmadi governorate and the Municipality.

New Jahra governorate plan reviewed

THE Jahra Governor, Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Nasser Al Sabah received at his office yesterday morning, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mohammed Abdul Mohsen Al Rifai, and reviewed the new governorate administrative map.

The two officials discussed HH the Amir's directives, regarding Jahra governorate projects, which include the construction of the new Sibbiya city.

The minister handed the governor a map of the governorate borders.

The meeting was attended by the acting Municipal Director, Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali, the Director of Jahra Security, Col Ahmad Ibrahim Ismail and the Director of the Public Relations at the Municipality Nasser Al Ayar.

Sibbiya city located to the north of Kuwait and to be constructed soon will cost about KD4.337 billion.

Studies on the city began in 1971 and were completed in 1983. Informed sources said that costs of the city were established according to 1982 estimates. The estimated costs therefore, do not

Kuwait's national interests a priority: defence minister

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (KUNA): Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber today affirmed that Kuwait's armament policy is purely a Kuwaiti concern and is not influenced by any other country.

Nawaf added in a statement to a local magazine that Kuwait as an independent country gives priority to the country's interests in pursuing such a policy.

Factors
He added that the circumstances in which the weapons will be used will largely determine the type of arms to be bought.

He noted that the future need of any given weapon is an essential factor, underlining that special military committees are constantly watching the most advanced arms in the world.

A weapon is usually ordered after the committees make a comprehensive study on it and how it would suit the country's needs, he said.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Chief of Staff Major General Mazied Abdul Rahman Al Sanea said



Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf that Kuwait's armament policy will have fruitful results in the long run.

He added that manpower is the main element in all world Armies if coupled with advanced weaponry.

He pointed out the ministry's efforts to attract Kuwaitis to join the Army, and send them on training courses abroad.

Gulf educational research officials conclude meeting

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (KUNA): Educational research officials in the Gulf states ended their meetings here today by adopting several recommendations on means of boosting co-operation and co-ordination among their institutions in educational research.

The participants discussed in the closing session a final report on their deliberations on several working papers. The gathering was sponsored by the Arab Education Research Centre here, on means and directions of education research and ways of assessment of curricula, school's directors and teachers' assessment, besides issues of co-operation and co-ordination.

The meeting recommended that educational research should be conducted through collective efforts and within the framework of concerned departments. It called for enhancing applied research to meet the real

requirements and priorities of society.

Participants also recommended formulation of extensive study on feasibility of the present system of periodical tests as means for evaluating standards of students.

The conferees urged education institutions in member countries to give due attention to the task of training teachers on how to set tests, apply them and evaluate their final results, in the same way that has been practiced by the Arab Education Research Centre.

Exchange

The meeting called for further co-operation and co-ordination among research departments through exchange of information, and recommended training seminars to be organised by the Education Research Centre in Kuwait, to promote the capabilities of researchers in member states.

Civil Defence meeting held

A MEETING, organised by the Training Committee of the Ministry of Interior for Civil Defence volunteers, was held yesterday at the General Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The meeting emphasised the final form of theoretical training programmes for the first month.

The committee decided to invite about 320 male and female volunteers from the first batch to attend the meeting which is scheduled to be held on Jan 25th and 26th, 1989 at the General Department for Civil Defence Headquarters, located at the Sixth Ring Road.

This batch of volunteers will be called on Jan 28th, 1989 and the training period will be considered as official working days as decided by the Cabinet.

Zayed meets Benazir Bhutto

KARACHI, Jan 24, (Reuters): United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan met today with Pakistan's new head of government, Benazir Bhutto.

Bhutto greeted Sheikh Zayed at a VIP lounge at Karachi Airport, Pakistani officials said.

It was Sheikh Zayed's first meeting with Bhutto since she took office in December as the first woman prime minister of a Muslim nation.

Pakistani officials only said that matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Agriculture authority prepared to combat locusts

SUCCESSFUL efforts exerted by the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources to fend the locust hazard is a conspicuous sign of high-level preparedness to face all possible eventualities, according to an expert in locust combating techniques, Dr Mamdouh Abdul Hameed Ibrahim.

He told a local newspaper that the authority was constantly on the alert in anticipation of possible re-invasion by more swarms.

He added that great efforts were exerted last fortnight to combat sporadic swarms which invaded 40 square kilometres near Wafra, along the Kuwait-Saudi border. He declared that the situation was easily brought under control.

Ibrahim said that special training courses had been developed to illustrate different locust fighting techniques.

Two of these had recently been held in Wafra and Abdali, each attended by 14 engineers and supervised by a special delega-

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Arab telecommunications growth should be sustained, says expert

DEVELOPMENT in telecommunications in the Arab world has grown faster than any other part of the world according to a leading Arab telecommunications expert in the opening session of the MECOM '89 conference yesterday.

In a keynote speech Dr. Idris Yousif Ahmed, Head of Technical Department, Arab Telecommunications Union (ATU), highlighted the current progress and development of telecommunications industry in the Arab world in general and in ATU member states in particular and called for steps to be taken to sustain development in line with advanced technology and expertise of telecommunications around the world.

He said telecommunications in the Arab world is limited to telephone, telex, and telegraph services, unlike the Western world. Telecommunications industry is a very small market in every Arab state and as such is not generally given top priority by governments. About 2.5 per cent of GNP is generally invested by an Arab state in the industry, he added.

Objective

The objective of ATU is to see an increase of about one million new telephone lines annually throughout the Arab world (40 countries) in the long term. However, the immediate aim is to develop 250,000 new lines every year. At present there is a progress rate of about 30-40 per cent towards this target among developing Arab nations.

According to Ahmed, government monopoly and scarcity of technical manpower are two major drawbacks in the development of telecommunications industry in the Arab world.

"At the moment very little money is invested in the industry at government level. There is total dependence on loans to finance development projects. The market, being small, is not labour intensive. Therefore there are few technical hands available in the industry. Consequently, we are faced with low productivity performance."

He said technical staff comprises of 50-60 per cent of the total personnel in general in the industry in each Arab state, while there are only 8-10 per cent of top engineers and managers.

The ATU has at present 21 members, with headquarters in Baghdad.

The 'Arabisation' policy in the telecommunications industry in the Arab world was highlighted by Professor Rachad Homzaoui, leader of ITU Arabisation Project, University of Tunis.

Speaking on the current and future progress, Homzaoui said 'Arabisation' has come a long way since 1960 when the ITU and ATU began to work on the implementation of resolutions and solutions to adopt Arabic in telecommunications.

He said the most significant breakthrough came when an 'Arabisation' project started in 1982 at Rabat, was completed in 1986. In 1987 the project, conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme led to the publication of a glossary of Arabic terminology for telecommunications industry.

Planning meeting held to prepare for next five-year plan

KUWAIT, Jan 24, (KUNA): Minister of Planning Dr. Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Awadi today opened a meeting for the Planning Committee, in preparation for working out the next five-year plan for the years 1990/1991-1994/1995.

The meeting was attended by the ministry's Undersecretary and the General Co-ordinator of the plan Dr. Abdul Hadi Al Awadi as well as the assistant undersecretaries and heads of the planning committees in different government ministries and establishments.

Liaison

Awadi addressed the meeting, which is the first at the level of heads of planning committees, by expressing hope that the meeting would open liaison channels between the Planning Ministry and other ministries in a way beneficial to the co-ordination process and the flow of data and information which are the basis of the new development plan.

Awadi hailed the support of HH the Amir to the process of scientific planning and the keenness of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister on that side.

Rationalisation

He pointed out the fact that this stage is characterised by low government income and that necessitates more rationalisation.

Awadi hoped that the meeting would be held annually to discuss problems facing the plan during implementation.

He disclosed that a meeting would be held within three months to review the results of

implementation of the current development plan during the past four years and the problems that confronted it.

He called for collective effort to reach targets and to face the housing, population and labour challenges and to build up the future.

Abdul Hadi Al Awadi then explained to the meeting the goals and trends of the plan and the mechanism of its implementation.

The Planning undersecretary then spoke about the stages of working out the plan which he expected to be completed in December this year.

Plan

After the briefing on the details of the plan and its preparation a general discussion took place on the obstacles that some ministries faced during the past four years in implementing the plan.

The conferees called for appointing liaison officers between ministries.

They also demanded that the ministries be allowed to work out their programmes in accordance with their needs.

In a comment on the notes raised by some conferees, the minister of planning said the Kuwaiti citizen would be central to the future, and emphasised that there should not be dependency on servants for a long time.

He added that "there is a decision, which makes the Kuwaiti citizen the basis of the development process."

He stressed the role of the private sector in the plan and development.

Poly hair cosmetics



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هناك ما لا يحصى

A visual delight — and mountain mists

By Brian Hollis

MICHAEL Apted's *Gorillas in the Mist* clearly establishes Sigourney Weaver as the actress to bet for this year's Academy Award. Weaver spent more than eight weeks slogging up the slopes of the rain drenched Virunga Mountains of Central Africa to film this moving often brutal story of a woman, without much scientific experience, who travels alone to Africa to study the dwindling population of mountain gorillas. Dian Fossey, whose story this is, spent eighteen years living with her beloved primates, studying them and waging a one-woman war against poachers who slaughtered them and sold them as trophies to wealthy Europeans and Americans. Her passion to save the animals led to such excesses as setting fire to poacher camps. As she becomes increasingly obsessed with her mission she comes to prefer the company of gorillas to that of humans, and loses her one real lover, a National Geographic cameraman (played by Bryan Brown), as she will not give up her animals to move with him to a new assignment. When her favourite gorilla Digit is killed and mutilated, she erupts and becomes an avenging vigilante. By the time she was murdered in 1985 by an unknown assassin, her enemies, who included a sizeable number of society poachers, rival conservationists and local government officials, insisted that she had gone insane.

Whether she was insane or simply obsessed, her last days were not pretty ones, and Sigourney Weaver, to her credit, plays her as the hard drinking, chain smoking foul mouthed harridan she eventually became. It is a role that promises to bring her into the ranks of international stardom, after teetering on the edge for the last ten years in films such as *The Year of Living Dangerously*, *Alien* and *Aliens*. John Seale's camera captures the rugged beauty of African mountains without romanticising it, and Apted skilfully stresses his subject's positive aspects without glamorising her. *A Gorilla in the Mist* is a superb film buff's.

Last year's Oscar winner for Best Foreign Film was a Danish entry called *Babette's Feast*. Although the video is spoken in Danish (and a bit of French) with English subtitles, try to forget your prejudices for a while and make the effort to watch an excellent film. The story is set in the middle of last century in a small religious community in Jutland. The two young daughters of the sect's religious leaders are the subject of many proposals, but never marry. Among their suitors are a French opera singer and a Danish Army captain. The Spinster-daughters out of kindness take in a French refugee sent by the opera singer, who turns out to be a good cook, and wonderful housemaid. After many years, she wins a French lottery ticket and asks

the spinsters' permission to prepare a feast for the villagers.

The film is very visual and hardly needs any subtitles, especially in scenes such as where the opera singer is teaching one of the daughters to sing, or when the villagers are testing the delights of Babette's cuisine. In the end Babette's Feast lingers like some of Somerset Maugham's short stories — original, concise and well told.

This week sees the release of another highly rated British period drama *A Month in the Country* starring Colin Firth and Kenneth Branagh. Two World War I scarred veterans find themselves as neighbours during the summer of 1920 in a small Yorkshire village. Birkin, a hollow-eyed stammerer with a wracking cough, has been hired to uncover a painting on the mediaeval church wall. In the field opposite, tent dweller Moon, plagued by nightmares, is excavating a mediaeval grave and Saxon chapel. As the two young men get to know each other, we learn their dark secrets, and their separate labours fascinatingly collide into a common historical strand. Meanwhile, tensions are also brewing among the local community, whose lives are not quite as idyllic as they may seem. The film's strength lies in its lush painting of a broad rural canvas, its period feel and fine performances. Critics may object to the slow development of the plot, and the lack of originality of the buried soldier theme.

Michelle Pfeiffer plays the leading role in another new release, *Murder to the Mob*, a black Mafia comedy in the line of *Prizzi's Honor*. Pfeiffer plays Angela, the beautiful wife of a hood who is caught by his boss Tony the Tiger when trying to bed his mistress. Tony kills him and promptly makes unwelcome advances on Angela at the funeral. Keen to start a new life away from the 'family', Pfeiffer moves downtown into a low rent apartment. But she is followed by the FBI, who think she planned her husband's murder along with Tony. Tony himself, who still has designs on his wife who suspects his designs, Angela unwittingly falls for FBI watcher Mike, and he persuades her to try to entrap Tony. During a deadly denouement, all the protagonists pile one by one into a garish hotel suite in Miami, to be shot or arrested. The film has no high pretensions, but is full of visual and aural delights as well as classy performances from Pfeiffer and Dean Stockwell.

That great annual American sports event *The Superbowl*, played on Sunday, is already available on video thanks to the wonders of satellite transmission, and apparently the last half was one of the most exciting for years. New basketball games continue weekly.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI Fintaa/Farwaniya; Video Naur — Tel: 2432809; and Video Club, Tel: 5724372.

VIDEO CORNER

Dead Pool: a logical extension for Eastwood

By Gail Seery

DEAD POOL is not really a nice film. It's a follow-up to the Dirty Harry films, and the body count, though perhaps not quite so high as in other Eastwood films, is well into double figures by the end. As an unexpected twist, only half of the bodies have been gunned down by Eastwood.

Callaghan (played by Clint Eastwood of course), has just managed to put away one of San Francisco's top criminals, Lou Genero, and has become something of a celebrity.

The director indulges in lots of moody music, night shots of twinkling lights and shaded faces to get his effects. The first words here Callaghan says are abusive, and we know we're on form for the usual Eastwood complexities.

Basically the rules are as follows. If something is bad, whether it's a person or a tape recorder, he shoots it with a big gun. If he suspects someone might be a bit bad, he beats them up and crashes their head through a glass window. If someone or something is deemed to be good, then, with a bit of luck, it or they will be left

intact at the end of the film. Any female will be able to survive being shot at by machine-guns for ten minutes, without any facial scratches (or death), but any good guy buddy of Callaghan's will end up in intensive care. Callaghan is invincible and has a life long contract.

In the opening sequence of the film, his car is pursued and trapped by two other cars, containing four men. Each of the four men has a machine-gun, with which he sprays Callaghan's car. Callaghan, unhurt, gets out and shoots them one by one. The body count immediately goes up to four, and Eastwood has not yet smiled.

Game

Callaghan is pulled off the streets for his own protection, and assigned to Public Relations, which does not overjoy him. "I just don't feel like getting close and personal with any reporters," he says. Every reporter in the country immediately heaves a sigh of relief, jettisons gum shield and flak jackets, etc.

Callaghan finds himself back on the street and assigned to investigate the deaths of a series

of celebrities named on a Dead Pool list. This is a sort of harmless game played by a member of the production team and cast of a horror movie. Each player has to nominate eight celebrities who are likely to die before the end of the year, and at the end of that time, the one who has been right most often wins. To director Peter Swann's amazement, everyone on his list, which includes Callaghan, starts dying. (Meanwhile the death count rises to 10).

Callaghan copes with the situation by hurling a TV camera across a car park. These TV cameras are quite heavy, but he does it anyway. (Since when did reality intrude on one of his films?)

"When I told you to stop wrecking our cars I didn't mean you to go out and find something else to destroy," yells his boss. "What have you got against reporters?" demands the PR man. His punishment is having to take Sandra Locke imitator Patricia Clarkson to dinner. They get trapped in a lift, and the whole ensemble is riddled with machine-gun fire from the outside. Callaghan and the girl are completely

unharmful.

Up till now all attempts on Callaghan's life have been initiated by Lou Genero, awaiting trial. Then the homicidal schizophrenic who has been killing the celebrities takes over. This is much more gruesome. The homicidal maniac proves not to be very nice at all, and seems to be able to find far more interesting ways of killing people than Callaghan, who just shoots them a bit. In one particularly chilling sequence we see him attacking and mutilating a newspaper article with a knife. Now, those among my acquaintances who have a thorough understanding of the American legal system assure me that this in itself is not a crime. I will take their word for it.

The film continues to a particularly gruesome climax, as the director struggles to find some suitable way of killing body number 17.

This is a chilling film. I am not a fan of screen violence, and the sheer scale of the killings spoil this film for me. However, I acknowledge that it is both gripping and compelling, and a logical extension of Eastwood's other work.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Good Morning
9.15 Cartoon serial
9.45 World News via Satellite
10.00 Imraa Fi Duwamah.
10.50 News Summary
11.00 Saghirat Alal Hayat.
12.00 Magic Show
1.00 News Summary
1.05 Holy Quran/Closedown

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 Cartoon serial
5.15 Eureka
5.30 Liqa Fi Al Zakira.
6.15 With Students
7.00 News Summary
7.30 Folklore

8.00 The Advancement of Science.
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Jawaareh.
11.30 Agniyat Tamaaniyat.
12.30 World News via Satellite

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Transformers.
6.30 Prestige.
7.30 Mutual of Omaha.
8.00 News in English
8.40 You and the Law.
8.55 Matlock.
9.40 The Cosby Show.
10.10 Wednesday's feature film: Kramer vs Kramer.
12.00 News Summary.

WHAT'S ON

SPORTS

PSAK Non-pro bowling league

FRIDAY, Jan 27: 8.30 am — Zamboanga City vs Makati; Caloocan vs Baguio City; 11.30 am — San Juan vs Paranaque; Manila vs Mandaluyong; 3.30 pm — Valenzuela vs Cabite City; Zamboanga City vs Quezon City. The tournament

has been sponsored by Dollarcro and Holiday Inn. Y.R.C. Football Tournament JAN 27: 10 am. The draw for the Youth Recreation Centre's sixth annual football tournament will be held at Miami Restaurant. All teams participating in it are requested to attend. The tournament will be held under the auspices of the Kuwait Indian Football Federation. For details call L.M. Pinto — 4832409; 2657293 or Eric 3262800; 5650466.

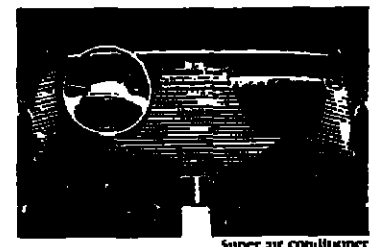
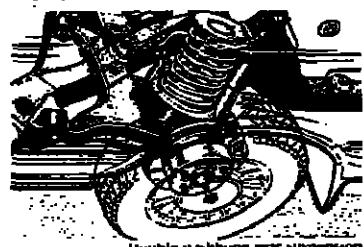


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Amman St.

Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Burgan Pharmacy
Souk Sabah, F'heel
Jeeb Al Shiyookh
Al Nimran Pharmacy
Opp. Secondary School

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Twinkle Twinkle Lucky Stars
Starring: Jackie Chan
Al Salmiya
Arabic play
Al Hamra
Shaqiqah wa Mutwalli (Arabic)
Starring: Suad Husni, Ahmad Zaki

Drive-In
Yom Mar Yom Helu (Arabic)
Starring: Faten Hamama, Mohammad Muneer

Al Firdous
Pyar Mohabbat (Hindi)
Starring: Govinda, Mandakini
Fahsheel Open-Air
Paap Ko Jala Kar Pyar kiye Jaa (Hindi)

Al Fahsheel
Husna'a Wa Amalqah (Arabic)
Al Jahra
Revolution Gramada
Ana Wal Azzab Wa Huwaak (Arabic)
Salaibkhat
Snake in the Eagle's Shadow
Al Jeeb
Red Heat
Ahmadi Drive-In
Al Shareedah (Arabic)

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.18 am
Zuhr	12.01
Asr	3.00 pm
Maghreb	5.21
Isha	6.40

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE cruellest lies often are told in silence — Robert Louis Stevenson, Scottish writer (1850-1894).

OPINION

Invaders must leave Lebanon

WHY is Lebanon not left alone to solve its problems? What the Lebanese people want is the departure of invading forces. Afterwards, Lebanon can be anything, Christian, Muslim or a Christian-Muslim state, like it used to be, without any problem until foreign parties began meddling in its affairs.

Since the 40's Lebanon had its constitution, system and traditions. It lived peacefully until invading foreign parties interfered. We say foreign parties, even if they are Arabs, as they are not Lebanese. Arabs could have helped Lebanon fight against Israel without interfering in its affairs. Lebanon has a peculiarity and we should keep away from this country and its people who alone can deal with the situation and its peculiar setup including elections and administration.

No Arab will succeed in imposing itself on Lebanon and Lebanon will never become a trading card in the hands of anybody. Non-Lebanese armies that continue to stay in Lebanon will face a gradual, slow suicide, without gaining anything. The Lebanese can foil attempts of those who try to use them.

The questions which arise are: What did the sides, which interfered in Lebanon, gain after 15 years? What results did they achieve from playing with Lebanese cards? The answer is simple: Nothing.

All those who have poked their nose faced lots of troubles in Lebanon including the Israelis, who have started talking about their casualties. The Israelis thought of uprooting the Palestinian revolution from Lebanon, but the Palestinians opened hell for the Israelis in the occupied territories by their great and determined uprising. This uprising has been instrumental in bringing about a change in the balance of the Israeli presence in Lebanon.

New developments in Lebanon also changed many convictions and balances. Even the Iranians, who thought that by having influence in Lebanon, they will succeed in reaching the Mediterranean Sea, later came to realise the Mediterranean Sea whales are huge and cannot be treated in a frivolous manner.

We say this for the Arab goodwill mission to realise that the Lebanese people want invading forces to pull out of Lebanon.

Even the Soviets could not rest or take comfort until they began to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan. This is because the defender is always stronger than the aggressor.

It is high time Lebanon is left to its people, Christians or Muslims, Sunni or Shiites, Orthodox or Maronites. Lebanon should be left to its people and those who refuse will have to bear the consequences. It is to be clearly understood that the situation and conditions of playing in the Lebanese cards are bereft of good luck.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Aquino harnesses superpower rivalry

By Jeremy Clift

MANILA, (Reuters): Philippine President Corason Aquino is harnessing a bit of superpower rivalry to strengthen her hand in negotiations with the United States.

A proposed multi-billion dollar aid plan for the Philippines and the future of US military bases top Manila's agenda with President Bush.

But the close US ally is actively building stronger links with Moscow, with Aquino promising to visit the Soviet Union later this year and encouraging trade and other links.

"I would like for more of these visits to take place," she told a Soviet delegation headed by Valentina Tereshkova, the world's first spacewoman.

A meeting between Vladimir Lobov, first deputy chief of the Soviet military general staff, and Defence Minister Fidel Ramos during the last concluded trip by the delegation was believed to be the first top level military contact since the two countries opened diplomatic relations in 1976, Asian diplomats said.

Aid
Lobov told reporters on Saturday the presence of foreign military bases was a destabilising factor in the region.

The planned US-sponsored aid plan and negotiations on extending the lease on the US bases are likely to dominate Philippine foreign policy over the next 18 months.

In a major foreign policy speech last week, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus described the aid initiative as "the centrepiece of our economic relations with the United States."

The US has indirectly linked the proposed multi-billion dollar aid package, which would be also financed by Japan, Western Europe and some Asia-Pacific Nations, to the success of negotiations to extend its lease on US bases in the Philippines.

Both sides are now jockeying

for position ahead of the opening of the negotiations on the future of Clark Air Base and the Navy port Subic Bay, which Washington regards as important for the defence of the Indian and Pacific oceans.

In his speech, Manglapus said he would visit the Soviet Union in the spring to prepare for the trip by Aquino, and announced that Manila was ready for the bases eventually to be turned into a civilian industrial estate.

Base workers, state owners and bar girls in the Subic Bay town Olongapo gave a resounding thumbs up to the bases on Friday by turning out in their thousands to bar access to a convoy of foreign and Filipino peace activists who want the bases out.

"This town has a population of 285,000 and they are 99 per cent dependent on the base," said mayor Richard Gordon.

The lease on the bases, which employ 60,000 Filipino workers, expires in September 1991, with US diplomats saying privately they would like it extended until around the turn of the century.

Security
Ultimately the issue will be decided on how much money the Philippines will get for use of the bases, with the outcome of the negotiations setting the shape of Pacific security in the next decade.

In talks which ended in October, Manglapus secured sharply increased compensation for 1990 and 1991, totalling \$962 million in direct grants and assistance, and further help in debt relief.

In a visit to Manila in December, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Moscow was not trying to drive a wedge between the United States and its former colony, and was sincere in wanting friendship with the Philippines.

Many Western and Asian diplomats saw the developing closer ties between Manila and the Kremlin as suiting both sides, by placing pressure on Washington in the bases negotiations.

Experts propose far-reaching reforms

China unsure of its economic future

By John Pomfret

BEIJING, (AP): In a radical break with socialist ideology, three Chinese economists have come up with a proposal to distribute state-owned property to the people.

Another group of young thinkers wants to establish a nationwide stock exchange based on the American model with a Chinese version of the security exchange commission.

If realized, the proposals would fundamentally change China's economy — and forever alter its political structure.

The fact that Chinese leaders are even listening to the proposals is an indication that the state is unsure about its economic future. They lie on the radical fringe among the plethora of economic theories being debated in academic circles and the official press, and serve as testimony to a new tolerance to once-heretical ideas.

Whether they will be put into effect is a different matter.

At the Institute of Economics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Hua Sheng, Zhang

Xuejun and Luo Xiaopeng feel China must abandon public ownership, which lies at the root of the communist state.

In its stead, they propose a system coyly termed "individual" ownership. What they mean is private ownership, but those words remain taboo in the land of Marx and Mao.

They also want to stop funding universities and think-tanks in a move designed to spur free thought.

"Our goal is to liberate the Chinese people," said Hua, the 36-year-old director of the institute's microeconomics department. "Social justice, the right of self-realization, is the essence of socialism. And that has nothing to do with state control."

"If we are to advance, the government must stop treating the people like little children," added Zhang, 35, a senior research fellow at the academy. "And the people must take responsibility for their lives."

In the past, state-run enterprises had to give all profits to the state, which then handed back funds to the enterprises based on their importance to society. But

under reforms pushed since 1978, the businesses have been allowed to keep some of their profits.

Zhang said the problem is that because the enterprises are still publicly owned, few really seek profits. If they do, the profits often are not to benefit the managers, nor the enterprise.

Emperor
"In some companies, the factory manager is like a little emperor, handing out bonuses to the people he likes," Zhang said in a recent interview.

In other enterprises, managers avoid profits to assure themselves sources of scarce raw materials.

"Take the bicycle industry," Zhang said. "Its prices have been freed for about a year, but there's no true market. Why? Because manufacturers keep their prices low and sell to other firms who supply them with raw materials."

The trio criticised China's programme to liberate prices as misguided.

"Under our current system, freed prices won't create a market because everything is still

controlled by the state," Hua said.

They said most enterprises not involved in national security should be converted to privately owned businesses.

First, universities research institutes and other academic organisations would be given "capital coupons" with which they could buy shares in companies.

Thus, the government would cut the amount of financial support it gives to these institutes, which would become independent of the state and its ideological controls.

The second step entails the distribution of these "capital coupons" to workers, who would use them to buy shares in companies or purchase a house.

"We made a big mistake when we outlawed property rights," Hua said, referring to changes promulgated since China's revolution 40 years ago. "Such rights really are the key to political rights and economic rights. We need to win them back."

Under a second plan proposed by a group of young, Western-

educated economists, the workers and institutions would be able to trade their shares on a national stock exchange.

Overseas
The exchange would be overseen by a governmental organisation based on America's Security Exchange Commission, said Wang Poming, who worked as an analyst at the New York Stock Exchange before returning to China last year.

Current Chinese "stocks" pay fixed interest and act more like bonds. Wang envisions stock prices fluctuating according to the market and wants to open all companies, except those involved in national security work, to stock purchases.

Many "stock" companies now sell shares only to their workers or other enterprises.

"Our economy isn't developing the way it should because there's no self-interest," Wang said. "The most active part are the individual businessmen. We must study them, and the stock system is one way to do it."

Observers are skeptical either plan will succeed. Even Zhang is pessimistic.

"The problem is that the people who need to help us are the ones who are going to be hurt the most by the proposals," he said. "We are asking them to give up their fat salaries and government cars. It won't be easy."

Hua and his colleagues recently sent Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang a proposal. Wang and several of his backers have met with politburo member Yao Yilin.

Hua's proposal has been published in several issues of Economic Research (Jingji Yanjiu) and a book is due out soon. Hardly a day goes by when stocks and a stock market are not discussed in the state-run press.

State council spokesman Yuan Wu, at a recent news conference, acknowledged that many new economic theories were being debated.

"We encourage this," he said. But he added, "the system of public ownership will be primary in China."

Hua and the others say he's got it wrong. "There's no way it can last," he said. "Sooner or later, they will recognise the truth."



East German border guards stand on the east side of the Berlin Wall on wooden ladders to observe the activities on the west side at the Potsdamer place. (Reuters wirephoto)

Berlin Wall: cold war era symbol of divided Europe

By Martin Nesirky

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): The Berlin Wall can be seen as a monstrous cold war symbol of divided Europe, or an essential and stabilising barrier against the evils of capitalism.

It just depends which side you are and whether you want to cross it.

In the past week the wall, built in August 1961, has again been pushed into the forefront of East-West relations and produced some heated comments from both camps.

Western foreign ministers at the Vienna European Security Conference (CSE), including outgoing US Secretary of State George Shultz, branded the structure a monstrous relic that trapped people, hindered détente and should be ripped down.

But East German leader Erich Honecker, who as security chief supervised its construction, swiftly retorted that the "anti-fascist protection wall" had averted war in Europe and could still be there a century from now.

Guarded
The wall — in some places it is fencing — snakes 165 km (100 miles) round West Berlin. The elaborate fortifications are guarded by hundreds of armed East German frontier troops backed by dogs, trip wires, search lights and barbed wire.

Yet every year dozens of East Germans risk their lives to clamber to the West over the wall described by former President

Ronald Reagan as "proof of communism's failed dream."

The West says the East was forced to build the barrier around West Berlin, and so make it a fenced-in enclave inside East Germany, to stem a damaging westward flow of thousands of refugees looking for a better life.

East Berlin phrases its version like this:

"This situation (before the wall) was exploited by intelligence services and big corporations that organised a brain-drain, speculated in the GDR's currency, engaged in large-scale smuggling and staged counter-revolutionary actions aimed at destabilising socialist order in the GDR."

Nearly 30 years on, with even East Bloc allies beginning to question the structure in private, East Berlin's official reasoning remains much the same.

Honecker said on Thursday the Wall shielded East Germans from exploitation, thieves, currency speculators and the "machinations of the West's drug society."

"It will still be standing in 50 and even in 100 years if the reasons for its being built have not been removed," he said in a speech.

A leading West German politician, Hans-Guenther Hoppe, described Honecker's remarks as a blow for détente.

Western diplomats in East Berlin said Honecker's outburst was a typical response to a sen-

sitive subject, from an ageing leadership resisting substantial change.

It did not necessarily imply East Germany would fail to live up to its commitments under the CSCE accord on human rights, military security and economic cooperation.

"It's headline rhetoric, we've heard it all before," said one diplomat. "What is troubling is that it does not match the overall atmosphere emanating from Vienna."

Hardline

There, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said the Iron curtain — the East-West ideological divide — had been shaken and the CSCE meeting had hastened its corrosion.

East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, who also attended the Vienna ceremonies, prefers another analogy based on the idea of the common European house.

In a speech last month he said the Berlin Wall and the equally well-guarded inter-German border were load-bearing structures in that dwelling.

"Every tenant (in the European house) should feel unencumbered and not threatened," he said.

Although far more East Germans can now visit the West, many say the European house will mean nothing to them until doors swing wide for them to leave their own room and see others.

By Francis Mlongwa

NAIROBI, (Reuters): Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, defying political foes who once wrote him off as a caretaker leader, has begun his 11th year in power with a fresh drive against corruption and inefficiency.

Declaring 1989 a "year of pruning," Moi vowed in his New Year speech to the nation that he would purge the government and state-run firms of all disloyal, corrupt and inefficient employees.

Diplomats and local businessmen say they take seriously Moi's threat to deal harshly with anyone he regards as disloyal.

"It would be foolhardy for anyone to dismiss Moi's warning as rhetoric. He has shown he does what he says," said an African diplomat here.

The 64-year-old leader will be continuing a vigorous campaign he launched last year, during which he dismissed several top government officials.

Accused

The most prominent head to roll was that of Vice-President Mwai Kibaki, a respected economist with a low personal profile, who had been frequently accused by opponents of "singing loud enough" in support of the president.

Moi, a former headmaster, was vilified by opponents as a stop-gap president when he took over power in 1973 after the death of Kenya's first president, Jomo Kenyatta.

"His decision was based on the fact that Moi comes from the minority Kalenjin tribe of western Kenya, whereas Kenyatta belonged to Kenya's largest and most powerful tribe, the Kikuyu."

A series of events over the past 10 years have forced Moi to swap his avuncular image for that of a tough-talking, no-nonsense leader.

Coup

Having weathered an economic crisis in the late 1970s caused by a slump in world prices for Kenya's main exports of coffee and tea, he faced a coup attempt by radical Air Force officers in August 1982.

The rebels briefly seized several vital installations in Nairobi, including state radio, but the uprising was swiftly put down by the Army.

"The attempted coup profoundly shocked and, I think, changed Moi, who all along appeared to be cautious, perhaps insecure, in his job," a Western diplomat told Reuters.

Moi quickly disbanded the 2,000-strong Air Force, half of whose members were charged with mutiny. Several of those on

Moi confounds political foes

trial were sentenced to death and executed but most were freed.

Shortly afterwards he dismissed from the cabinet Kenya's eminence grise, Constitutional Affairs Minister Charles Njonjo, for his alleged links with the plotters.

Njonjo, who together with Kibaki and Moi formed an unofficial ruling triumvirate after Kenyatta's death, had in the past made no secret of his ambition to ultimately become president.

Today Moi, his authority unassailable within the ruling Kenya African National Union Party, demands absolute loyalty from his ministers and senior civil servants.

Sacked

Last year he sacked Agriculture Minister William Odingo Omondi after Omondi thanked disgraced former Vice-President Oginga Odinga for securing a school for him to study in

media and launching him on his subsequent political career.

Omondi learned of his dismissal when journalists telephoned him at his government office after hearing the announcement on state radio.

"Everyone should dance to my tune," Moi once told a rally in the northeastern town of Garissa.

Moi, who neither drinks nor smokes and attends church services almost every Sunday, has transformed Kenya from a de facto one-party state to a de jure one.

Queues

He argues that Western multiparty democracy cannot work in Africa and has partially abolished the secret vote in national elections in favour of a system whereby voters queue up to reveal their preferences.

Opponents of the new system say it merely makes it easier to rig elections.

There have also been widespread allegations of human rights abuses.

Since 1986 more than 100 people have been jailed at summary trials for their alleged links to shadowy opposition groups.

Several detainees have been police custody and some have been persistent human rights torture.

However, Moi has staunchly defended his record, saying that very few people were held for long periods without trial and strongly disputing allegations by the London-based human rights group Amnesty International about the situation in Kenya.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1494 — Alfonso II succeeds to throne of Naples on death of Ferdinand I.
- 1544 — Sir Thomas Wyatt raises army in England to oppose Mary I's projected marriage.
- 1579 — Union of Utrecht is signed by Holland, Zealand, Utrecht, Gelderland, Friesland, Groningen and Overijssel, marking foundation of Dutch republic.
- 1802 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte becomes president of the Italian Republic.
- 1831 — Polish diet proclaims independence of Poland, dethrones Nicholas, and deposes the Romanovs.
- 1944 — Battle for Cassino begins in Italy in World War II.
- 1952 — Crisis arises between France and Germany over administration of the Saar.
- 1959 — Britain signs trade pact with East Germany.
- 1962 — African heads of state of Monrovia group (Liberia, Togo, Nigeria and Cameroon) issue charter for pan-African co-operation.
- 1975 — Sheikh Mujibur Rahman abolishes parliamentary rule in Bangladesh and assumes absolute powers as president.
- 1983 — Japanese government lodges strong protest with Soviet Union over Soviet military buildup in Far East, including possible transfer of intermediate-range missiles from Europe to Siberia.
- 1986 — Voyager 2, sweeping to within 51,000 miles (81,000 kms) of Uranus, discovers a 10th ring, a 15th moon and a North Pole that angles downward.
- 1988 — Drug traffickers murder Colombia's attorney-general Carlos Hoyos.

North and South Korea in biggest peace drive since war

By Barry Renfrew

SEOUL, (AP): North and South Korea are engaged in the biggest drive to ease tension since the Korean war, with the two bitter rivals talking about everything from a non-aggression pact to trade and cultural exchanges.

In recent months they have bombarded each other with a flurry of proposals on ending their 40-year confrontation and both show a willingness to talk that would have been unthinkable even a year ago.

"Expectations are running high for achieving peace and stability on the basis of improved relations with North Korea and working together toward the long-range objective of reunification," the Korea Times said in a Jan 19 editorial.

But even optimistic observers warn against expecting a sudden breakthrough, adding that long and difficult negotiations will be needed to make even minimal progress. Past talks on improving relations all failed to make

progress. "Just the fact that they are talking is a big step and the wide range of possible contacts is unprecedented," said a Western diplomatic observer, who declined to be named.

War

The two nations technically are still at war since no peace treaty was signed at the end of the Korean war in 1953 and each claims to be the sole legitimate government of Korea.

The communist North agreed on Jan 16 to a South Korean proposal to upgrade political talks to the prime minister level in what would be the highest-ever contact. Preliminary talks are to begin in February on procedural issues.

Lawmakers from both sides are to resume meeting on Feb 10 on clearing the way for separate parliamentary talks on a non-aggression agreement and other issues.

South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo said on Jan 17 his government was working on a new policy under which the two

sides could work as partners. South Korea no longer wanted to see the North as an enemy, he said.

"Besides clearing the way for trade and exchanges between South and North Korea, I will realise inter-Korean summit talks in the near future and achieve epoch-making progress in resolving the Korean question," he said.

Trade

Trade has begun for the first time with Seoul importing North Korean goods in small quantities and South Korean companies are seeking permission for deals worth tens of millions of dollars. The North has indicated it may accept joint economic ventures, according to Seoul officials.

Proposals have been made for personnel and cultural exchanges, including visits by South Korean students, academics and doctors to the North. But the North has indicated such exchanges may depend on political progress.

South Korea, long one of the world's most anti-communist

nations, is making major strides in developing ties with the Soviet Union, China and other North Korean allies to ease tension and help persuade Pyongyang to seek progress.

The United States has expressed guarded hope that the new mood could produce major changes. Some 42,000 US troops are based in the South under a mutual defence treaty against the North.

"We think that the efforts that are ongoing now between the South and the North to begin to talk are probably very salutary," US Secretary of State James Baker told the US Senate Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Korean peninsula is one of the world's major trouble spots. Hundreds of thousands of heavily armed troops face each other across their 240-kms (150-miles) border. The two archrivals have clashed repeatedly over the years.

The sides have no formal relations. The border is sealed and there are no links except for a single hotline. The Korean pen-

insula was divided in 1945 by US and Soviet forces that ended the Japanese colonial occupation.

Chances of improving relations depend largely on how serious North Korea is about changing its stance towards the South, South Korean officials and Western diplomats say. There are signs that little has changed in the North.

Supreme North Korean leader Kim Il Sung continues to rule over one of the world's most repressive totalitarian states. Kim launched the 1950 invasion that started the Korean war and still talks of "liberating" the South.

Reforms

There is no sign of Soviet-styled reforms toward openness in North Korea and there may be little hope of major change while Kim rules. North Korea has often attacked the South and it was widely blamed for the November, 1987 bombing of a South Korean airliner with the loss of all 115 people aboard.

But North Korea reportedly faces growing problems as its

economy collapses after years of mismanagement and the South's increasingly powerful economy may be the best hope of help, officials say. The North may fear international isolation if it continues its belligerent position, they said.

South Korean officials concede the North may be trying to use the talks to secure withdrawal of US forces from the South. The North has said the annual US-South Korea "Team Spirit" military exercises must end if there is to be progress in negotiations.

Despite his optimism, Roh warned any progress would be gradual and stressed the need for strong defences and retaining US forces. He ruled out unilateral arms cuts by Seoul.

Roh is also seen as having political motives for pushing for a breakthrough with the North. Roh's government lacks support among many South Koreans and the president hopes his "northern policy" may reduce domestic opposition, even if it does not succeed.

ARAB TIMES

By Kathy Cuddihy

I AM old enough — but just barely — to remember when the term "face lifts" entered the general public's everyday vocabulary. Both the media and the home spawned great debates about the merits and demerits of the so-called miracle cure against the ravages of time. The voice of opinion divided themselves into well-defined camps: anti face lift and pro face lift.

Surprisingly, the "anti" category attracted both older and younger women. Many older women, full of self-pride, scoffed at the idea of man interfering with what Nature had intended. Those younger women who chose to associate with the "anti" school of thought, naively believed they would weather life's storm with enough finesse that they wouldn't need to resort to the drastic measure of a surgeon's scalpel.

Impartial minds ... and desperate faces ... populated the "pro" division.

A few unwrinkled, pubescent friends and myself considered the matter weighty enough to warrant some in-depth discussions. We arrived at the righteous conclusion that when the time came, if we needed remedial repairs, we would not allow false pride to get in the way of reality.

That was then and this is

Wrestling with wrinkles

now and I have to admit that it looks as though the time has come ... or at least it's approaching at an increasingly rapid rate. Unfortunately, "if" no longer enters into the equation. Repairs are definitely required.

Admittedly, in a kind, gentle light I don't look too bad. If I refrain from wearing glasses when inspecting myself in the mirror, my myopia deludes me quite satisfactorily, even in harsh lighting. But deep down, I know that the deterioration has set in.

It began with the appearance of a few innocent "laugh" lines at the corners of the eyes and the sides of the mouth. I knew the situation had become serious when the lines remained long after the laughter. Then came a few "character" lines — you know, those nasty wrinkles that stubbornly refuse to iron out. A face full of character and humour wouldn't be outrageously difficult to live with, except that I have also noticed the faint beginnings of jowls ... and a distinct hint of more than one chin! Needless to say, I'm appalled. How on earth can this be happening to me? If I don't do something drastic, this simple deterioration will soon landslide into full-scale

disintegration. I have to face reality and contemplate the possibility of surgical solutions.

Despite the confident rashness of my conclusions in youth, now that the potential zero hour gains on me, I feel obliged to give the matter more careful consideration. When exactly is the right time for a discreet nip and tuck? Is aging like a virulent disease which one must catch early in order to entertain any hope of survival? Or can one glide along through Life for awhile, aging "gracefully" and then expect that last-minute action will do the trick of prolonging — or restoring youth? My only apprehension with the latter option is that the sudden improvement might be too great a contrast to appear "natural". I don't mind continuing to look young, but I'd prefer not to dramatically revert to youth virtually overnight.

I once read somewhere that there is a limit to the number of face lifts a face can ideally undergo. I've seen several "over-lifted" faces whose skin is too tight to show any expression other than perpetual amazement. This gives me cause for further concern. If, for example, doctors recommend a maximum of three such operations, how

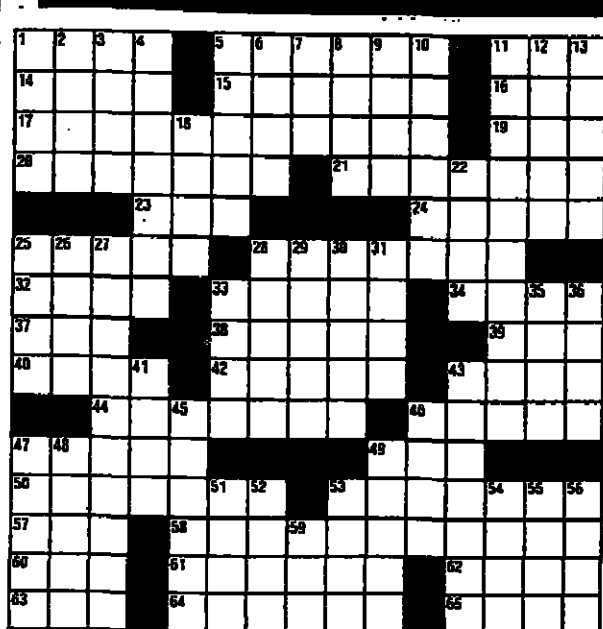
do I most effectively space them? If I could accurately predict my lifespan, I would divide three into my remaining years. But what if I gamble and have a face lift every 10 years ... and then find I've still got another 20 years left to suffer sagging jowls?

I knew of one woman who believed that facial muscles would degenerate less quickly if they were pulled back into a smile. Consequently, she always wore an enormous grin. It's a cheery theory, I suppose, but what happens when circumstances demand a more serious demeanour? Does the face crack and fall apart?

To go under the knife, or not to go under the knife? Professional help would make me look better, but how much better? Clever make-up can still hide many of the flaws and I can probably learn to live with the unhideable ones. After all, maybe those "character" lines are revealing something noble that I haven't discovered about myself!

Nature hasn't entirely let me down ... yet. Maybe it would be wrong to interfere ... at this stage. Who knows, if I'm careful I might not even need to resort to the drastic measure of a surgeon's scalpel....

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Dandies
 - 5 Thawed
 - 11 Piddling amount
 - 14 Contests
 - 15 New York lake or river
 - 16 Half of CXXII
 - 17 Leave in a hurry
 - 19 Kennel sound
 - 20 Things to roll up
 - 21 Allow
 - 23 A Kennedy
 - 24 Anesthetic
 - 25 Indignation
 - 26 Sitter regret
 - 32 Celebrity
 - 33 Parlor furniture
 - 34 Made a hole in one
 - 37 Those in power
 - 38 Chaldean
 - 39 Lyric poem
 - 40 Diplomat's forte
 - 42 Protuberances
 - 43 Wheel teeth
 - 44 Issued an edict
 - 46 Omsk coin
 - 47 Modify
 - 49 Moray
 - 50 Triumphs over
 - 53 Artist's studio
 - 57 Blamish
 - 58 Hasty departure
 - 60 "I like —": 1952 motto
 - 61 Matador
 - 62 Equal, to Jacques
 - 63 Mao —tung
- DOWN**
- 1 Musician Waller
 - 2 Race-track
 - 3 Job
 - 4 Add sugar
 - 5 Bermuda transport
 - 6 Baseball's Slaughter
 - 7 Ayres of films
 - 8 High or low —
 - 9 First garden
 - 10 Small fresh-water fish
 - 11 Break loose
 - 12 Deportee
 - 13 Windshield adjunct
 - 18 Declare
 - 22 — deal
 - 25 Touched down
 - 26 Actress Foch
 - 27 Escape punishment
 - 28 Harsh circumstances
 - 29 Dodge
 - 30 Defeated, in chess
 - 31 Wallet items
 - 33 Scandinavian
 - 35 Advantage
 - 36 Governor
 - Winthrop, e.g.
 - 41 Cypress or larch
 - 43 Killarney lass
- 45 Air currents**
- 46 Ship's spine
 - 47 Confess
 - 48 Trickles out
 - 49 Fundamental values
 - 51 Equine pace
 - 52 Evening, in Venice
 - 53 Land measure
 - 54 Shakespearean villain
 - 55 Peron and Gabor
 - 56 Depend (on)
 - 59 Make as profit

GOREN BRIDGE

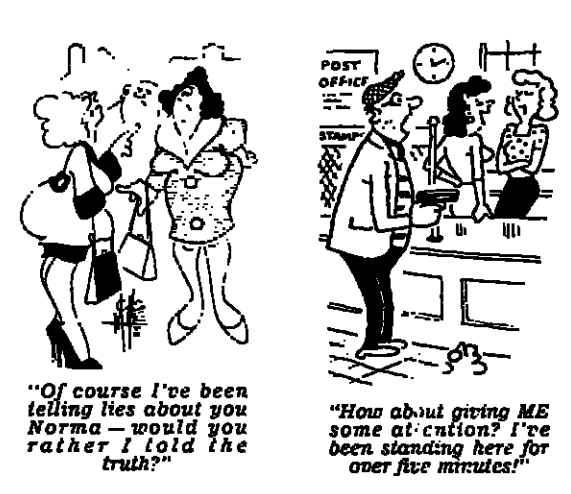
BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠K94 ♥QJ ♦J109 ♣QJ874
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠AKJ952 ♥Q93 ♦7 ♣A62
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠KQ10 ♥K93 ♦865 ♣AQJ6
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠K54 ♥KQ95 ♦KJ42 ♣AK
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠A5 ♥A87 ♦AQ8 ♣109862
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠A5 ♥A87 ♦AQ8 ♣109862
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♥ ? 2 ♥ ?
What action do you take?



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

STDS STOPS AKSO
ERIE CARRE MALE
WALL INTER ODOR
ALL LOOKS YELLOW
RED ONS BENTS
DENTO EADS TIIP
EXPANSE LAMA
ALEXANDERPOPE
ARID STEAMUP
LMN ROAD NEAPS
CACTI ILI GAT
THE JAUNDIC DEYE
SUFS SPOON ONER
GRIT STING EDEN
TENS TORTS SAIS



Are you a wimp or a winner?

Some people speak their minds in tricky situations — others just daren't. Do you stand up for your rights or run a mile from any confrontation? This quiz is devised to reveal your strengths and weaknesses.



By Marina Shamoon

THERE are people who are martyrs and will do anything for a quiet life — and those who voice their opinions no matter what the consequences! Which category do you fit into? This quiz will reveal all...

- 1. You have taken that well-earned annual holiday which proved to be dreadful. Do you:**
- a. Tell everyone what a wonderful holiday you had?
 - b. Complain to your friends about it?
 - c. Write to the holiday company and ask for a refund?
 - d. Write to your local newspaper to warn other people?
- 2. You have gone to a country hotel for the weekend but you are unhappy about your room. Do you:**
- a. Leave immediately and find another hotel?
 - b. Go home?
 - c. Grin and bear it, after all it is only for two days?
 - d. Ask the manager to give you another room?
- 3. If a policeman stops you, do you:**
- a. Jump out of the car and tell him/her that they should be going after murderers and rapists?
 - b. Give the officer your biggest smile and apologise for whatever you have done?
 - c. Tell them that their police chief is your best friend?
 - d. Ask to see their police identity card?
- 4. You are in a non-smoking section in an aeroplane and somebody lights up. Do you:**
- a. Draw their attention to the no-smoking sign?
 - b. Tell them to stop?
 - c. Ignore them?
 - d. You always travel in the smoking section.
- 5. You wish to return a faulty item to a shop. Do you:**
- a. Send a friend to do it for you?

- b. Walk out after the shop assistant has convinced you that your item is perfect?**
- c. Demand your money back?
 - d. Agree to buy something else in exchange?
- 6. You are in a restaurant and the food is cold. Do you:**
- a. Refuse the meal and order another one?
 - b. Ask the waiter to re-heat it?
 - c. Eat it?
 - d. Not complain at all as you don't mind if the food is cold?
- 7. If the waiter service is appalling, do you:**
- a. Feel sorry for the waiter — they may be having a bad day, so you leave a large tip?
 - b. Complain to the manager?
 - c. Cross out the service charge?
 - d. Not go there ever again?
- 8. You are about to park and another driver steals your parking space. Do you:**
- a. Ram your car into their car in anger?
 - b. Find another space?
 - c. Make a scene in the hope that they will move their car?
 - d. Smile and think to yourself, "Oh well, bad luck!"
- 9. If you are involved in an accident, do you:**
- a. Get the details of the other driver involved?
 - b. Abuse the other driver?
 - c. Claim innocence?
 - d. Admit to the other driver that it was your fault?
- 10. You book a hotel room, but when you arrive you find they have overbooked and you don't have a room. Do you:**
- a. Accept their apology and go to another hotel?
 - b. Complain to the manager and refuse to move?
 - c. Make your own arrangements and demand your money back?
 - d. Accept their reasons and apologise for causing them difficulty?
- 11. If you are sexually harassed at work, do you:**
- a. Talk to your friends about it?
 - b. Tell the person to stop, in front of a witness?
 - c. Talk to your employer about it?
 - d. Feel too frightened to do anything about it?
- 12. If your boss says something that you disagree with, do you:**
- a. Tell them you disagree?
 - b. Agree wholeheartedly?
 - c. Disagree behind their back?
 - d. Resign?
- 13. If you see a neighbour's dog fouling the pavement outside your house, do you:**
- a. Tell the owner in no uncertain way what you think?
 - b. Complain to the council?
 - c. Say, "What a lovely doggy?"
 - d. Shoot it?
- 14. You are standing in a bus queue and a school child pushes in front of you. Do you:**
- a. Let them and all their friends get on before you?
 - b. Elbow them out of the way?
 - c. Take the culprit aside and lecture them?
 - d. Put them over your knee and give them a good hiding?
- 15. If the people next door are having a party and the noise from the stereo is deafening, do you:**
- a. Sleep through it?
 - b. Call the police?
 - c. Gatecrash?
 - d. Do the same when you have a party?

Here's how you score:

	a	b	c	d
1.	0	5	15	10
2.	15	10	0	5
3.	15	0	10	5
4.	10	15	0	5
5.	5	0	15	10
6.	15	10	0	5
7.	0	15	10	5
8.	5	15	10	0
9.	15	5	10	0
10.	5	10	15	0
11.	5	15	10	0
12.	15	0	5	10
13.	15	10	0	5
14.	0	15	5	10
15.	0	10	5	15

0-75: You really do believe that the meek shall inherit the earth. You think that you are a martyr and carry the troubles of the world on your shoulders. You don't have the confidence to speak your mind. But keeping quiet causes you pain because people tend to take advantage of your good nature. Come out of your shell. Having an opinion does not mean you are a nasty person.

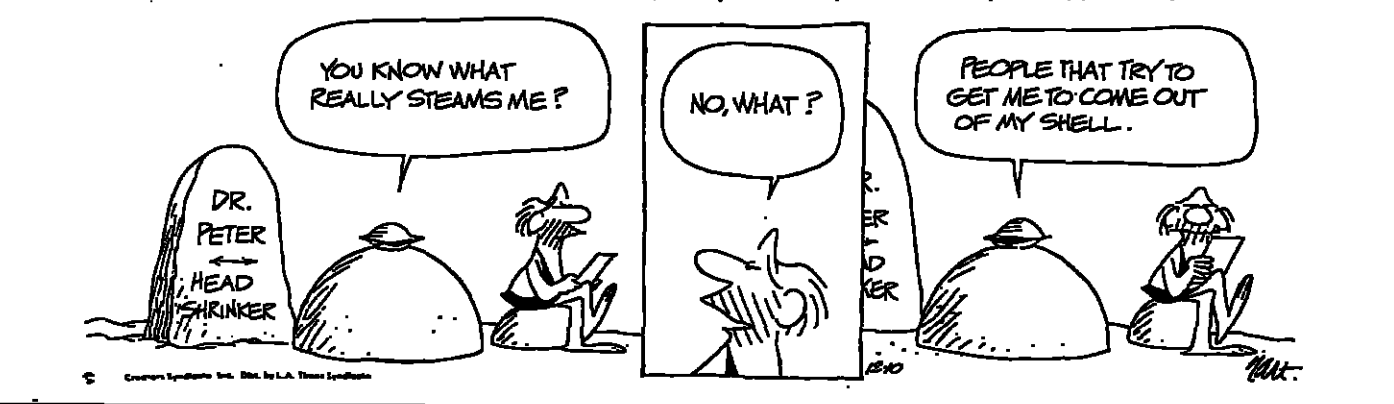
76-150: You tend to stick up for yourself when the mood takes you. You put up with things for as long as you can and then all hell breaks loose. Try to be consistent. If you have friends around you, you seem to find the courage to speak your mind. But the challenge is to be self-assured when you are on your own.

151-225: Well, I would not want to cross you! One look and you make the other person feel an inch high. You have probably led a difficult life and you had to fight for what you believed in and what you wanted, or you were born into a famous family where the mere mention of their name had people bowing and scraping to you. The only snag is that it can make people feel uncomfortable in your company. Be a little bit more gentle!

THE WIZARD OF ID

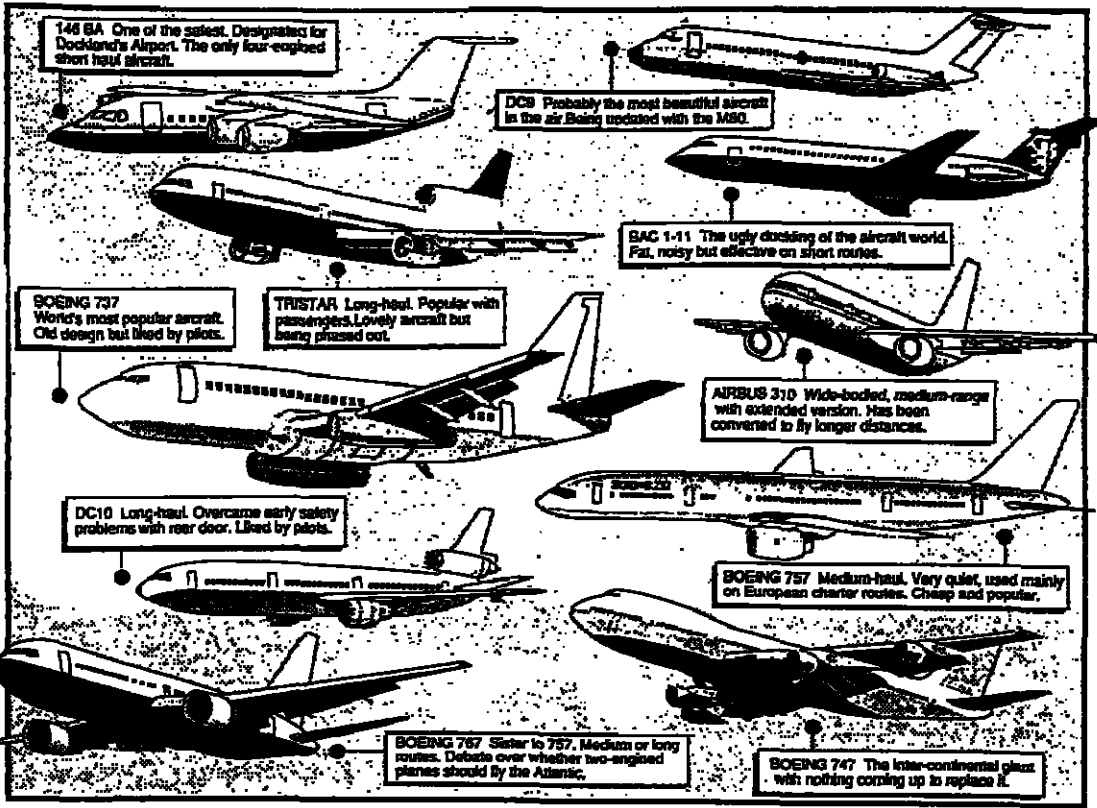


By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
- You should not stray from the subject you are engaged upon. Keep an open mind towards innovations. Make sure you do not drive too far without a break. Be forgiving.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
- You will feel more like your usual self. You will need to have your wits more fully about you. Avoid losing yourself in daydreams, instead face up to the facts. Be selective.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
- You will find it harder to make up your mind but you must make an effort to do so. This is no time to waver or dither. You should not allow yourself to be intimidated — if you concentrate your efforts you will get nowhere in the end. Be moderate.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)**
- You will be better able to face the facts, not all of them pleasant. A good opportunity will tend not to be recognized until too late — never mind it is not the last one. Avoid putting all your eggs into one basket. Be benevolent.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
- See to it you keep in touch with new developments. Also be sure that you do not bore anyone. You are tending to eat more than is good for you, so beware. Be far-sighted.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
- There is no point in rushing if it means dropping your standards. However that is no license for being lackadaisical. You would do well to use a little more commonsense. Be sincere.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
- The better influence of the Moon, as well as of Venus, Saturn and Uranus will help you to stay on a level course. You should make sure that you meet your commitments. Do not act on hearsay and do not decide on the spur of the moment. Be temperate.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
- Mercury's better influence will help you to remain clear-headed. A decision you have been delaying should be taken promptly. You should not lose your temper when dealing with a highly-strung person. Be responsive.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
- You will have a lot to do so do your best not to waste time. You should try to make yourself a little more approachable. Do not accept without giving something in return. Be without malice.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
- If you are trusting to luck to get you out of trouble — don't. Nor is this a good time for taking any undue risks. The Moon's better influence coupled with that of Venus will help you to sort out your personal life. Be truthful.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
- Something you are learning will suddenly begin to click into place. You should not allow yourself to be led astray by appearances. You will be able to take stresses in your stride. Be fair.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
- You will be liable to tire more easily and should ensure you get enough rest. You will tend to be easily irritated, but if you exercise restraint you will be able to keep the tendency in check. Avoid spending too much time dealing with secondary matters. Be frugal.



Production pressures affect quality control

Aircraft industry on the rack

By Mike Swain

THE appalling Lockerbie and M1 air disasters — which together killed more than 350 people — brought home in tragic detail the risks of flying. And they have focussed world attention on overcrowded skies and the increasing demands being placed on aircraft.

An estimated 176 million people take to the skies every year. In the next decade the figure is set to reach 400 million.

To meet this demand there has been a huge boom in aircraft sales — one new plane rolls off the Boeing production line every day.

But experts warn that production pressures could be hitting quality control.

Doubts

Last week a former plant manager with General Electric in America revealed he is suing the company for allegedly issuing false inspection certificates on CFM-56 engines such as the ones of the 737-400 which crashed at Kegworth on the M1.

He claims "corner cutting" has been going on a long time and is done because workers are under heavy pressure to produce.

Doubts have already surfaced over the performance of the engines in heavy rainfall.

The Federal Aviation Administration in Washington said engine failures of the CFM-56-3 had been reported twice previously.

Other aircraft have also raised safety fears in recent years.

Two years ago the Civil Aviation Authority discovered more than 100 older 747s had cracks.

And in 1979 the DC-10 was grounded for a month after suffering five major crashes in ten years, claiming nearly 1,000 lives.

Last month checks were ordered on the veteran Boeing 727 after part of the rear fuselage tore off a 22-year-old plane.

The incident sparked a fierce debate over how long "geriatric" jets can be flown safely. It is estimated that over 3,500 of the 742 jet airliners in service are more than 12 years old.

One air travel expert said: "They are flying into the unknown as far as safety is concerned."

Over the next few years older, more noisy aircraft will be phased out, including early versions of the 747, 737, and BAC 1-11.

Life-span

But, because newer aircraft have a longer life-span, some safety experts believe future aircraft will still be in service for too long.

Increasing competition for passengers puts more pressure on airlines to achieve faster change rounds.

In America a 737 jet, similar to the one in the M1 crash, has been known to be unloaded, refuelled and boarded with new passengers in only 20 minutes.

Despite the recent problems and the checks ordered on Boeing 737s — the world's most popular aircraft — and the A320 Airbus which uses similar engines, experts still insist that air travel is extremely safe.

The Federal Aviation Administration said: "The aircraft of today are extremely strong and tough."

"It is safer to travel now than it was ten years ago despite the increase in air traffic."

Aircraft sales will be boosted even more when deregulation is introduced in 1992.

This will speed up the trend towards fewer-engine and more powerful medium route jets such as 737s, the Airbus and 767s.

"Generally the fewer engines you use, the cheaper it is," said aircraft expert Philip Butterworth-Hayes, managing editor of Jane's Air Transport Data.

Three-engine jets in service already, such as the DC-10 and Tristar sometimes use only two on shorter journeys.

But engine numbers cannot guarantee safety.

In 1982, a jumbo flying over an erupting volcano, lost all four of its engines for 12 minutes.

The pilot called it a "technical hitch."

Wholesale deletion of sexist terms

Men 'banished' from the Bible

By John Capon

MEN have been banished from many parts of the revised version of the New English Bible, due to be published in September, making it the first English Bible translation to bow to the current demand to eliminate sexist language from religion.

The opening words of Psalm I which appeared in the NEB, published in 1970, as Happy is the man who does not take the wicked for his guide, have become Happy is the one....

St Paul's admonition to the Christians of Corinth in 1 Corinthians III, i: For my part, my brothers, I could not speak to you as I should speak to people who have the Spirit, becomes For my part, my friends....

These are just two examples of the wholesale deletion of the words "man" and "brothers" which appeared hundreds of times in the NEB, in deference to the trend towards "inclusive language".

But according to one of the revision team's members, Professor Morna Hooker, Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity at Cambridge University, the translators have not gone as far as feminists would have liked.

"We have not translated the Bible as some of us might have wished the Bible writers had written it," she says. "It would have been possible to translate the text entirely into non-sexist language but that would not have accurately reflected the 1st Century culture in which it was written."

The changes made in the text relate to words which in the original do not carry a specific gender.

Appease

News of this further move to appease the feminist movement comes the day before the official publication by the Church of England of proposals to reduce the "masculine domination" of its liturgy. The report Making Women Visible, makes suggestions relating to the Alternative Service Book which will reduce references to "man", "sons" and "brothers".

The Revised English Bible will be the first truly ecumenical version to be published in Britain. Roman Catholic scholars have been involved in the translation work and Catholic representatives served alongside Protestants from the main denominations on the joint committee which has overseen the revision.

It will also be the first modern language version to appear in both Old and New Testaments simultaneously.

The new Bible is sure to be a best seller. The New Testament edition of the New English Bible published in 1961, sold six million copies in its first four years.

It remains to be seen whether critical reaction to the REB matches that of its predecessor. Writing in The Sunday Telegraph more than 26 years ago T.S. Eliot described the New English Bible as "An active agent of decadence."

FAMILY DOCTOR BY DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM PREGNANCY COULD POSE RISK TO FORMER CANCER PATIENT

QUESTION: I lost a breast to cancer before I was 30, two years ago. I'm now going with a man who loves me very much, but would like to have a family. How does my past history affect the possibility of pregnancy?

ANSWER: Since the question may be interpreted in two ways, I'll try to answer both questions for you.

The surgery has had no effect on your ability to become pregnant. Even with the assumption that you had chemotherapy after the operation, your hormonal functions now may be considered normal, and the chances of becoming pregnant are the same as before the operation.

The advisability of becoming pregnant is, however, another important question. In pregnancy, the production and flow of the female hormones change considerably. While some studies show an improved outlook during pregnancy, the risk of developing cancer in the other breast may be increased. The possibility of recurrence depends upon a number of important factors: the size of your first tumour, any signs of spread, the length of time between the development of the cancer and its treatment,

and the kind of tumor. It's difficult to evaluate without more information.

It's important to know that should a new cancer be discovered while you are pregnant, immediate and intense therapy would be necessary, and depending on the stage of your pregnancy, would expose the fetus to many risks. However, many women in this situation carry the pregnancy to term without harm to the baby. While there are varying opinions among the experts, it's generally advisable to wait at least three years following breast cancer treatment before trying to conceive.

Since there are many factors to take into consideration, you would be well advised to sit down with your physician and boyfriend for a full discussion. It's the only way you can come to the very best decision for yourself, for you must make the final choice.

QUESTION: I have made up my mind, partly because of your column, partly because of encouragement from friends, to begin remaking this tired old body of mine. After a fine physical exam, my physician agrees that I may proceed with an aerobic dance class. Any final instructions from you?

ANSWER: You make me proud. You are in for lots of fun, and an improvement in your strength, endurance and even flexibility. But here are a few cautionary words.

Be sure you begin each session with warm-up and stretching exercises — a most important component of the session. Don't come late and try to dive right in; it doesn't work that way. Do the cool-down exercises as well, without omitting the stretches. Don't push too hard, particularly in the beginning.

It isn't necessary to go full tilt for the full hour. Just stay in time to the music when the going gets rough, but stay in there. I don't believe in the slogan "no pain, no gain" for this activity.

Buy the right shoes for aerobics, and don't substitute running shoes, or try it barefoot. A good instructor won't permit this anyway. The greatest risk of injury comes from overuse, so moderation is the rule. Most important of all, keep it pleasurable, for fun is great motivation, and you will stick with it long enough to do you some good. Have a blast!

1989 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

Popularity growing amongst non-Muslims Sufi sect thrives in Cyprus

By Neil MacFarquhar

LEFKE, Cyprus, (AP): Aziza, a West German, wears her new Muslim faith, like the head scarf that goes with it, a little uncomfortably. But she thinks it can cure her cancer.

Abu Lutuf, another West German convert, remembers the distaste he felt the first time he saw the leader of an Islamic sect in Europe with his turbaned followers: "all these people in funny hats. I don't like it."

Zehra, daughter of a Swedish diplomat, turned to Islam a few years after the death of her lover Rudy Dutschke, a militant West German student leader of the 1960s.

All three changed their names and ways of life after being converted to Islam by Sheikh Mohammed Nazim Adil, the 66-year-old spiritual leader of a 600-year-old sect called the Naqshbandis.

From an unassuming village house in the Turkish half of Cyprus, where he lives with his wife and one of his four children, Sheikh Nazim is gaining what his followers say is a large number of converts to the sect, one of a number of sufi, or mystical, offshoots of Islam.

He advocates Islam as the basic structure for life. But he is quick to draw a line between his teachings and fundamentalist beliefs like those espoused by Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Imprisoned

The leaders of his order fled to Syria when the sufi were outlawed in Turkey for trying to undermine the post-World War I move to secular government. The Syrians also have sharply curtailed their freedom.

The Sheikh was imprisoned for six weeks in the Cypriot capital, Nicosia, in 1950 for giving the call to prayer in Arabic from the city's largest mosque.

At the time, Islam in Cyprus was administered by Turkish Cypriots, and Turkish was the official language of prayer.

But Nazim now counts Rauf Denkash, president of the breakaway Turkish Republic of

Northern Cyprus, among his followers and retains his base there. Turkey, still bans sufis, although many practice the religion underground.

Sheikh Nazim said his followers obey the laws of the countries where they live, although they believe Islam is the best system of government.

"Secular systems are all right for Christianity but not for Islam," he said. "We have a system that has been perfectly successful for ruling nations for 14 centuries."

Sufi orders — known as "tarikat" (Arabic for paths) — are often vilified by mainstream Islam as heretics.

Followers embellish their faith with practices they believe allow them to commune with God. Among the most visible are "zikr" ceremonies, in which they repeat the name of God or short Quranic verses until they go into a trance.

Zikr ceremonies in Egypt can end with adherents collapsed and foaming at the mouth after hours of dancing and chanting. Some sufi dervishes in Turkey whirl for hours to music.

The Naqshbandis call themselves "the quiet order," shaking their heads at such practices.

Sheikh Nazim's basic teaching is that belief in God is the essential principle of life.

"The most dangerous and terrible thing is for mankind to be egotistical," the Turkish-born Sheikh said. "I'm not a fanatical person. I'm only claiming that all mankind is one big family. It's not right to think of unlimited things and unlimited desires."

Sheikh Nazim usually speaks quietly, grappling to phrase his thoughts in English, learned in high school 50 years ago.

"We're trying to make people understand that we're not coming to this life for killing, but to make people live. We're coming to build, not to destroy... to give pleasure to people, not to make them sad; to give them love, not hatred; justice, not cruelty."

After five minutes in this vein, he grins and asks: "enough?"

His followers said attending the coronation of the Sultan of Malaysia, as well as audiences

with the Sultan of Brunei and late Pakistani president Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, has swelled the Sheikh's followers in the last few years. His aides claim there are millions of adherents, but there is no independent estimate.

They claim his popularity is rising even in non-Muslim nations like Britain, West Germany, Finland, the United States, Australia and Japan.

The Sheikh said he was studying biochemistry and medicine at Istanbul University in 1940 when he was attracted to Islam and the underground sufi groups.

When he finished university in 1944, he apprenticed himself to the then-leader of the Naqshbandi, Abdullah Daghestani, who later dispatched him to Cyprus. Sheikh Nazim took over when Sheikh Daghestani died in 1973.

When he receives his followers, he sits cross-legged on a bench, occasionally scratching his bald pate under his turban.

Aziza, formerly known as Christine Doro, arrived in Lefke in early November, planning to stay two weeks. She says she has throat cancer and that she feels much better from a daily regime prescribed by the Sheikh that includes a half-glass of fresh onion juice and a heavy dose of Islamic prayer and chanting of Quranic verses.

She said the Sheikh "puts special energy in the food."

Aziza said she was deeply involved in the West Berlin women's movement and finds the role of women in Islam, especially tenets like keeping her hair covered and doing kitchen work, difficult to adopt.

But Zehra, 36, born Thyra Quensel, said communal living and political activism in West Berlin never gave her the sense of freedom she gets from Islam.

She explained that she has been able to graft Islam onto her Roman Catholic upbringing because the Prophet Mohammed, (PBUH) founder of the faith, is the last of the prophets that include Noah, Abraham and Jesus.

"I've become a much better Christian since I've been a Muslim," she said.

Re-edited Lawrence of Arabia will be released

NEW YORK, (AP): Twenty-six years after the premiere of Lawrence of Arabia, the Oscar-winning epic will be re-released with scenes that had been cut from the original and a new look and sound created by a \$600,000 restoration.

The re-edited "Lawrence" will be just as its director, David Lean, intended.

The American Film Institute and Columbia Pictures announced the re-release last week. The restored film will premiere on Feb 4 in New York, Feb 5 in Washington and Feb 12 in Los Angeles.

The 2 1/2 years of work done on Lawrence of Arabia were "the most expensive, extensive and difficult film restoration ever attempted," said Robert A. Harris, an archivist who conducted the restoration for the institute.

Awards

"Lawrence of Arabia" won Academy awards for best picture, director, colour cinematography, colour art direction, sound editing and music, but Lean's original editing plan was not followed in the rush to get the movie ready in 1962.

Lean, 80, re-recorded lost parts of the original sound track with Peter O'Toole, who starred as T.E. Lawrence, and Alec Guinness, who played King Faisal. New lines were added. Missing ones were redubbed.

"All of their voices have mellowed," Harris said, "and so we had to change the harmonies by using computers."

"Parts of the film had been cut and lost, and the colour, appalling," said Columbia president Dawn Steel. "Now the film looks brand new. The colour is perfect, and it's the cut that David Lean wanted."



Presley's daughter sues for divorce

By Peter Kent

THE pregnant daughter of Elvis Presley is filing for divorce — just 14 weeks after her shotgun wedding to a penniless disciple of the Church of Scientology.

And last week — amid claims that 20-year-old Lisa Marie has lost her baby — a legal fight was under way to stop husband Danny Keough getting a cent of the Presley millions.

Lisa Marie — Elvis' sole heir — sparked the drama by turning up in tears at mother Priscilla's Bel Air mansion.

She is said to have told the Dallas star: "Mom, it's not going to work. You were right. We're through."

Half-an-hour later, shrewd Priscilla summoned her lawyers — and dispatched Lisa to stay with her grandparents.

A source high on the Presley payroll said: "Priscilla suspected Keough of gold-digging all the way."

"Once the dust has settled, the family fully expect Danny to come in for the money."

"But when he does, he'll find Lisa and Priscilla ready and waiting."

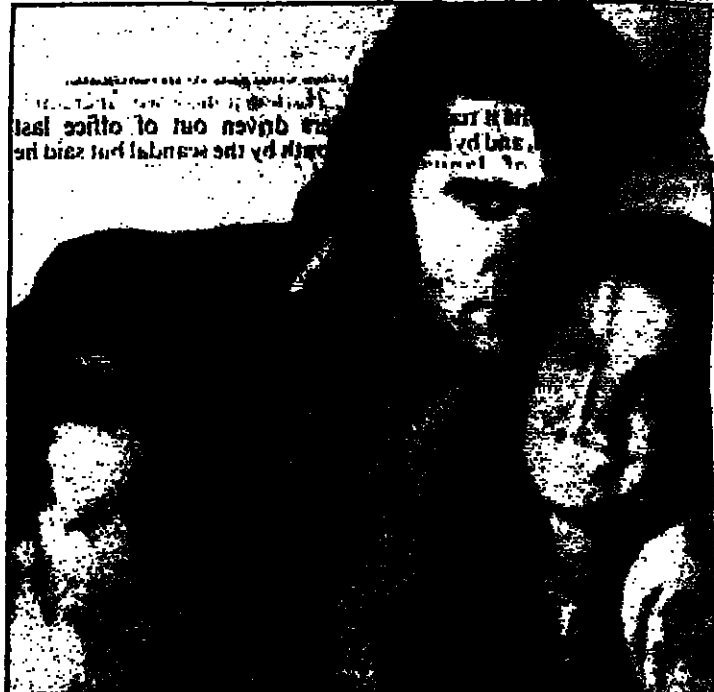
Priscilla is known to favour an annulment, cutting off the 23-year-old musician without a penny.

When Elvis' only child married Keough last October, the couple were dubbed the Princess and the Pauper.

The spartan ceremony at the Church of Scientology in Los Angeles was also described as an insult to Elvis' memory.

They planned a honeymoon lasting three months. But within five weeks it was over.

Lisa told friends that cruising the Caribbean with 500 members



of the Scientology cult was "not much fun."

The Presley clan was astonished when they then rented a one-bedroom flat from the Church in grubby west Hollywood.

One relative said: "Within a couple of days, the screaming matches started."

"Lisa Marie woke up fast and realised she'd made one gigantic mistake."

Fancy

"She didn't fancy life on 350 bucks a week. Danny makes practically nothing."

"When he started talking about a little house with a picket fence and three kids, it was the last straw."

"Love went out of the window."

When Elvis died in 1977, his estate was worth five million dollars.

But Priscilla has transformed his Graceland Mansion into a goldmine.

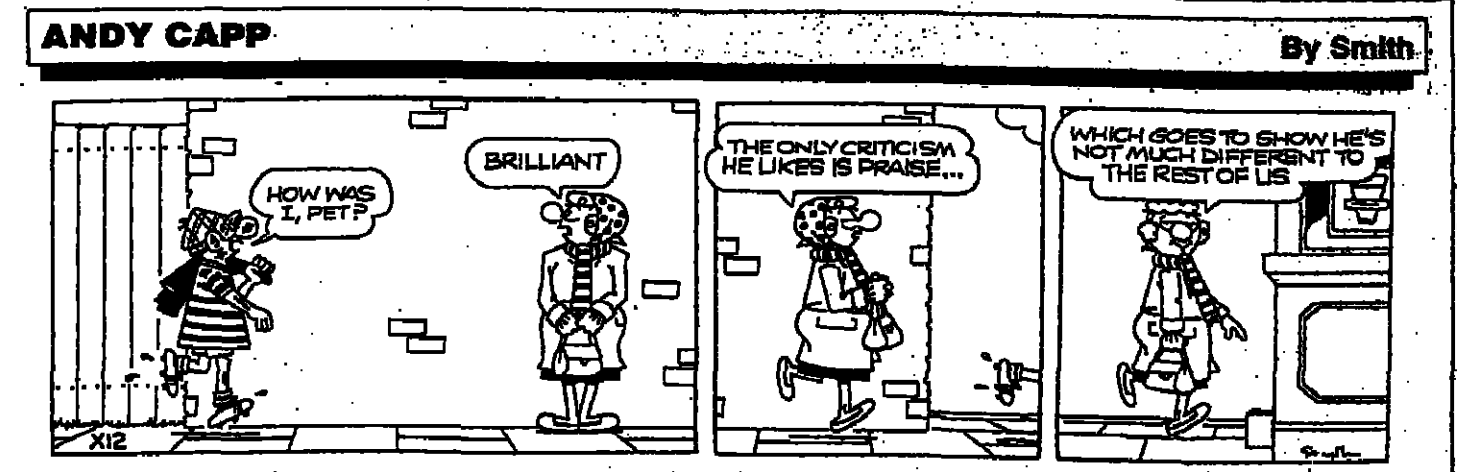
And by the end of this year, the estate will be worth more than one hundred million dollars.

That could have doubled again by the time Lisa Marie eventually gets her hands on the money.

In the original will, she would have inherited at the age of 25.

But last July she agreed to leave the money in trust until her 30th birthday.

Priscilla has been warned that, under California divorce law, Keough may be able to stake a claim on the family fortune.



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Shortage of money likely to delay development

Prospects of post-war reconstruction boom being stalled

BAHRAIN, Jan 24, (Reuters): Prospects of a post-war reconstruction boom in Iran and Iraq are being stalled by deadlocked peace talks, bad debt and fears that new investors could lose their money.

Bankers and economists say that although both states were rebuilding their shattered economies following the August ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war, a shortage of money was likely to delay development.

Neither Iran nor Iraq wants to continue fighting, said Gulf International Bank economist Henry Azzam.

Talks "But for someone to put in money, they need to know there is a peace agreement signed and sealed by the two countries," he told Reuters.

UN-brokered peace talks,

which began five days after an August 20 ceasefire, quickly stalled amid disagreement over sovereignty of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, troop withdrawals by both sides and a prisoner exchange.

Iraq unilaterally freed 255 ailing Iranian prisoners yesterday and today's UN peace mediator Jan Eliasson arrived in Tehran in a bid to set a date for new face-to-face negotiations. The last round of talks adjourned in Geneva on November 11.

Bankers said Iraq, burdened by up to \$65 billion of debt and an inflation rate of 35 to 40 per cent, would have to rely on Arab development funds and guarantees from Western export credit agencies for the lion's share of outside funding.

Iran—free of major debt—is a better candidate for foreign

loans, but bankers say this is unlikely as the country is in the throes of an internal debate over whether borrowing is compatible with Islam.

Usury is forbidden by the Quran, the Islamic holy book. "I can't see the Iranians coming to the international market as borrowers like the other less developed countries because of this interest rate problem," Azzam said.

Project "But they will tell contractors who are bidding for projects they will give it to them if they come with their own financing... there might be an oil barter agreement," he added.

Iranian Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Sadr on Saturday urged his country to shun foreign borrowing, saying it would mean kissing the Islamic

revolution goodbye.

One Western diplomat said many foreign businessmen would be reluctant to invest in Iran until it was clear who would succeed its spiritual leader, 86-year-old Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Prices

"If there is no clear successor for Khomeini, there will be a tremendous struggle for power after he dies. You could lose everything you invested instantly," he said.

Higher oil prices brought on by OPEC's latest pact to curb production are expected to boost 1989 revenues for both Iran and Iraq but businessmen in the Gulf community say hopes of a commercial boom following the ceasefire remain unfulfilled.

"The actual expenditure in

Iran and Iraq is not going to be what some people are talking about," said Khaled Al Fayez, head of the Kuwait-based Gulf Investment Corporation.

Half of Iraq's total debt is thought to be owed to its two main Gulf war backers, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Arab development funds have extended more than \$200 million.

Bankers said Baghdad would continue to tap these resources but they would not meet all the country's development needs.

"The only thing which would help Iraq overcome its credit problems would be to tell the whole world what their intentions are regarding their outstanding debts," one Arab banker said.

"There is very little appetite now for additional long-term Iraqi risk on the part of the com-

mercial banks," said another. "All foreign credit lines to Iraq are already fully utilised and unless it improves on its payments record it is unlikely they will be increased," he added.

Credit France, with official claims on Iraq of around \$4 billion, has refused to extend further credit to Iraq until the country begins to settle current payment arrears.

Britain, on the other hand, has almost doubled its 1989 credit line to \$598 million in a move aimed at reaping preference in future contract awards.

German and Italian companies are also vying for the lead in post-war reconstruction.

"It is not unexpected that you would see some new money committed... Iraq is not in as much straits as some countries in Latin America," Fayez said.

World Business Summary

Scaling down demands for trade pact with EEC

BRUSSELS, Jan 24, (Reuters): Gulf states want talks on a trade pact with the European Economic Community as soon as possible but have apparently abandoned earlier demands for a free trade agreement. EEC sources said yesterday. They quoted Abdullah Yaqub Bishara, secretary-general of the six-member GCC, as saying that a co-operation treaty which the GCC and the EEC had signed last year had to be followed up quickly. "We don't want the momentum to be lost. (A trade agreement) is of strategic importance, not just commercial," he was quoted as telling European Commissioner Abel Matutes, who is responsible for relations with Mediterranean countries. But the sources noted that Bishara spoke during the talks only of a trade agreement, not a free trade agreement. Bishara, who came to see his opposite numbers at the new EEC executive body which took office earlier this month, also met Martin Bangemann, commissioner responsible for the EEC's internal market and industry. He was quoted as telling him the GCC had no intention of disrupting any markets, and pointed out that the GCC members—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates—had been an element of moderation in the region. Bangemann was quoted as saying there were a number of delicate problems to be solved before a trade pact could be signed. But he said lower tariffs, within the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), could be envisaged for industrial products.

The sources said the two sides would now discuss at a lower level what form the official negotiations should take, but they gave no timetable for such talks. The EEC is mainly concerned about the Gulf states' petrochemical industries, which, it says, can operate on significantly cheaper oil supplies than its EEC competitors.

Blow-out danger in North Sea recedes, says oil firm

STAVANGER, Norway, Jan 24, (Reuters): The Norwegian oil firm Saga Petroleum said today the danger of a blow-out from one of its North Sea oil exploration wells was receding and it would fit an extra safety valve by the end of this week. Ships with oil-skimming equipment have stood by in the southern part of Norway's North Sea sector since Sunday after a drilling rig met high pressure as it burrowed more than 4.5 km (almost three miles) below the sea. A system of valves on the sea-bed, called a blow-out preventer, closed the well down when the pressure threatened to spew oil and gas into the sea last Friday. Saga evacuated most of the 75 crew immediately. "We will fit another preventer by the end of the week and the threat of a blow-out now seems to be less," said Saga spokesman Bjørn Glennie. "It is a straightforward job. It will give us a second line of defence and make a blow-out very unlikely indeed. A blow-out from the well, which contains both oil and gas, could cause major pollution in the area and prove extremely costly to Saga. The state pollution board is keeping Denmark and West Germany informed of developments, since the well is in the southernmost part of Norway's North Sea sector. Glennie said sonar equipment monitoring the well had shown that upward pressure had not so far increased. The valves now in place could withstand pressures of 15,000 pounds per square inch (PSI). Pressure in the well is thought to be at 10,000 PSI.

Saga plans to use a third blow-out preventer to regain full control of the well before sealing it permanently. The company has called in an adviser Boots Hansen, a former associate of Texaco oil disaster expert Red Adair.

Speculation causing price drop, say oil executives

ABU DHABI, Jan 24, (Reuters): Speculative trading in the world oil market has sent prices tumbling despite sharply lower output by key Gulf OPEC states, industry sources said yesterday. "All Gulf states are sticking to (OPEC output) quotas, but we cannot control everything," said an executive of a state-owned oil company in the Gulf who declined to be named. Spot market prices for Dubai crude, the Middle East benchmark, fell to \$14.40 per barrel in Tokyo yesterday, \$1.50 below Friday's level. The drop was caused by traders taking profits from recent gains. Prices had risen by more than \$5 since November, when the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to cut output by nearly 20 per cent in the first half of 1989 to 18.5 million barrels per day. "We are sacrificing, we are doing what people are expecting us to do... but we are not getting the results," the oil company executive said. "Outside of OPEC, people are playing with (prices) maybe for their own benefit," he said. The sources added that most other Gulf producers have also reduced output to around quota levels. Industry sources say that as they depend heavily on oil revenue they are eager for the pact to hold, to stop prices falling further. OPEC's last output pact was undermined by quota violations by many of its members. Prices slumped as a result to as low as \$7 a barrel last year. "The signs so far in January show that Gulf states are keen to adhere to the (quota) agreement," an industry analyst in the Gulf said. "The amounts of oil to be sold by producer states in February are either lower or at January levels," he added. Industry sources say Saudi Arabia's export volume to Far East customers in February will be 25 per cent down on January. They said Abu Dhabi, the biggest producer in the UAE, has ordered a 10 per cent cut in February.

Brazilian official dampens speculation about interest moratorium

BRASILIA, Jan 24, (Reuters): A senior Brazilian official said yesterday that at no time in recent discussions with bankers had Brazil mentioned the possibility of a moratorium on debt interest payments.

Sergio Amaral of the Finance Ministry told foreign correspondents: "I want to make it quite clear that at no moment in the conversations was the word 'moratorium' used..."

Amaral, the ministry's foreign affairs secretary, was commenting on speculation in the Brazilian press that the government was on the verge of a moratorium.

The front-page headline in Thursday's Folha de Sao Paulo was "government has everything ready for a moratorium."

The speculation has been fuelled both by statements from Finance Minister Malillo Nobrega that Brazil could suspend interest payments if necessary, and by a report in the payment of January interest of more than \$500 million.

Problems

Amaral, who returned on Wednesday from the United States where he met Brazil's bank advisory committee, said the delay had been caused by technical problems in the central bank and payment would be made on January 25.

He told correspondents: "The only thing that was said was that we are waiting for disbursements from different sources. There are disbursements from the World Bank, from private banks... from the Japanese, from Export-Import Banks, and obviously if these disbursements do not happen we could have difficulties during the year."

Jobless rate continued downward trend in '87

GENEVA, Jan 24, (Reuters): Unemployment in many nations declined in 1987 but women often continued to fare worse than men in efforts to find work, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said today.

A press release ahead of publication of the ILO year book of labour statistics said jobless rates fell in 31 of 48 countries surveyed by the Geneva-based UN agency.

Among industrial nations, unemployment rates dropped from 6.9 per cent to 6.1 in the United States, from 11.7 to 10.6 in Britain, from 10 to nine per cent in Canada and from 12.3 to 11.9 per cent in Belgium.

Japan's rate remained stable at three per cent, as did Switzerland's at 0.8 per cent, the survey showed.

Increase

A number of countries experienced an increase although the rise was generally slight. They included France where the rate went from 10.4 to 10.6 per cent, Ireland from 18.2 to 19 and Italy from 11.1 to 11.9.

The survey found that women's unemployment rates in 1987 were lower than in 1986 although still higher than for men. Exceptions included Ireland (14 per cent for women and 19 per cent for men), Malta (three and five), Finland (four and six), Venezuela (seven and 10), Britain (eight and 12) and South Korea (two and four).

US interest rates may have to rise much further

Fed chief testifies to Congress as economy remains strong

WASHINGTON, Jan 24, (Reuters): Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan testifies to Congress today amid speculation that US interest rates may have to rise much further to cool the economy and stop inflation from rising.

The central bank chief's testimony will be scrutinised not only by Wall Street but also by the Bush administration, whose plan for reducing the federal budget deficit without raising taxes depends critically on falling interest rates.

The Fed, which is independent of the administration, has already raised short-term interest rates to around nine per cent from 6-1/2 per cent last March.

But the economy, now in its

seventh year of expansion, has remained surprisingly robust and government figures due on Friday are expected to show that growth in the final quarter of 1988 reached nearly three per cent, or four per cent of the impact of the summer's drought is excluded.

"The economy's possibly losing little momentum, but not a great deal. It still looks pretty strong," Robert Black, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Virginia, told Reuters.

Black, a member of the Fed's policy-making Open Market Committee, said he expects growth to slow somewhat by 1989 should still turn out to be a "pretty good year."

The Fed's task in judging the

appropriate level of interest rates is even more difficult than usual because the jump in inflation that economists feared has not occurred.

Surged Inflation had surged, the Fed would have no qualms about reining in credit even further. But consumer prices in 1988 rose at the same 4.4 per cent rate as they did in 1987.

"I generally have the impression that inflation is not accelerating," Fed vice-chairman Manuel Johnson told the Washington Post last Thursday. "I think there is a good chance we have contained inflation and inflationary expectations to the four to 4-1/2 per cent range."

But on Wall Street, where inflation fears sometimes seem

more deeply rooted than at the Fed, a number of economists believe the Fed will have no choice but to push interest rates even higher.

"It is going to take an awfully high rate of interest to slow down the economy," said Christopher Rupkey, an economist with Mitsubishi Bank Ltd in New York. He noted that in 1984 rates rose to 11.6 per cent before the economy started to slow.

Stephen Slifer of Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc expects the Fed to keep pushing rates up throughout the year because the after-tax cost of borrowing for companies after adjusting for inflation is still much lower than it was from 1983 to 1987.

"I tend to think this process will go on a lot longer than people

assume," said Slifer, who expects the prime rate to go up to at least 12.5 per cent from 10.5 per cent currently.

Allan Leslie of Discount Corp also expects the Fed to keep erring on the side of tight money but he said Greenspan would probably want to assess the impact of his most recent tightening of credit before deciding to raise rates further.

Suggested "The last thing you want to do is over-extend the move to the point where the economy starts falling apart," he said.

Leslie said comments by the Fed chairman yesterday in Atlanta to the National Association of Home Builders suggested that he was not "hellbent on raising rates."

Japanese minister quits over share scandal

TOKYO, Jan 24, (Reuters): Japan's Economic Planning Minister Ken Harada resigned today over a share scandal he was once charged to investigate.

Harada joined two other ministers driven out of office last month by the scandal but said he had done nothing illegal.

Harada, who took over as economic planning minister less than a month ago, had previously been chairman of a government committee charged with investigating the share trading scandal.

The Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported in its afternoon edition that Harada received large contributions from the Recruit Company, the parent company of a real-estate firm at

the centre of the scandal that has rocked the Japanese government.

In a statement to reporters after handing his resignation to Prime Minister Noboru Takehito, Harada said he had been charged to investigate the scandal but had done nothing illegal.

"I don't think I have done anything wrong in receiving political contributions. The amount of contributions I received was within the law," he said.

Harada, a close aide to Takehito, said he had resigned in order to spare the government any trouble.

"I understand that the cabinet's first priority at present is to implement the new sales tax, so if I stay it may pose some difficulties for the government," he said.

Harada, 69, declined to disclose the size of Recruit's contributions, but said he had regarded them as "a mid-year gift."

Harada is a veteran member of parliament who has held several cabinet posts, including transport minister and post and telecommunications minister.

He was replaced as economic planning minister by Koichiro Aino, 60, who has never held a cabinet post.

Asked if the new minister had ever received contributions from the Recruit Company, and an Aino aide said he had not.

Last month, Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Justice Minister Takashi Hasegawa resigned as a result of the Recruit scandal.

African oil producers urged to work together

The company sold shares to prominent political figures at cut rates and made direct political contributions to many politicians.

"It is true that Recruit Company was a member of my political organisation until November last year and that my organisation received contributions from that company," Harada told reporters.

Not illegal "But these contributions were not illegal," he added. "I don't think I've done anything wrong."

His resignation is another blow to Prime Minister Takehito, whose popularity rating has plummeted in recent months due to a series of scandals involving senior political figures.

Mitterrand denies receiving insider share trading report

PARIS, Jan 24, (Reuters): President Francois Mitterrand denied yesterday he had received a secret report linking a close friend with a French insider share trading scandal.

"No report has been given to the president of the republic," Mitterrand's office said in a statement. It broke an official silence since an article in the influential daily Le Monde caused political uproar on Saturday.

Le Monde said one of Mitterrand's oldest friends, Roger Patrice Pelat—or his son who has the same first name—bought 50,000 shares in a US company shortly before it was acquired by the state-owned French firm Pechiney.

Aware Mitterrand was made aware of the accusations in a confidential report on Friday, Le Monde said, adding that Pelat or his son netted about \$1.8 million from the deal.

The denial from Mitterrand's office followed 48 hours of pres-

sure on him to dispel suspicions that his friend might have profited illegally from inside knowledge of the Pechiney talks.

The French aluminium company paid \$1.26 billion for Triangle Industries last November after long negotiations.

The French Stock Exchange watchdog, the Cof, is investigating the insider trading allegations and is due to submit its report on Jan 31.

Confidence French investigators are seeking the buyers of about 220,000 shares in Triangle in the days before Pechiney paid \$56 a share for the US firm. The probe has spread to Switzerland and Luxembourg.

Mitterrand's office said he had full confidence that the Cof, or the judiciary if a legal inquiry were opened, would establish the truth and punish any culprits.

Pelat, who befriended the Socialist president in a German prison camp during World War Two, has made no comment on the allegations. He was so

frequent a visitor to the Elysee Palace that he was dubbed 'the vice-president'.

A less central figure in Mitterrand's circle, Max Theret, had previously told Le Monde that he advised Pelat to buy 10,000 Triangle shares in the days before the takeover, when the company's stock rose fivefold in value.

But Saturday's article, whose allegations were not withdrawn in yesterday's edition, deepened the scandal by alleging that Pelat bought a further 40,000 shares through third parties.

Earlier, authoritative sources said Cof investigators were unlikely to link Pelat with the extra shares.

Attribution "The attribution of 40,000 (further) shares to Pelat is not justified at this stage of the inquiry," the sources said.

The Pechiney affair has provided ammunition to both the right-wing and communist opposition less than two months before local elections.

Oil prices tumble

NEW YORK, Jan 24, (Reuters): Oil prices fell more than a dollar a barrel yesterday, wiping out nearly all of 1989's bull market that had set prices to their highest levels in 14 months, as a morning fall to a cascade of selling by speculators.

The March crude oil contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange closed down \$1.06 at \$17.33 a barrel, a loss of nearly 6 per cent of its value in just one day. Traders said that as prices fell, those who follow price charts joined in the selling, adding to the steep declines.

"The crude oil market was overbought last week and people were looking for chances to take profits and sell," said one New York trader.

Upswing

A January upswing in the market that boosted crude oil prices to their highest since November 1987 was reversed on Friday when February crude oil futures contracts expired and prices sank below \$19.

The February gasoline contract fell 2.21 cents to 49.57 cents a gallon.

Senate panel approves Bush's budget director

WASHINGTON, Jan 24, (Reuters): A Senate committee unanimously approved Richard Darman to be President Bush's budget director and sent his nomination to the full Senate for action tomorrow.

Members of the Senate Government Affairs Committee said there was little doubt Darman's nomination as director of the Office of Management and Budget would be confirmed.

During two days of hearings, Darman said Bush would present a budget plan to Congress around Feb 9 which would cut the federal deficit without raising taxes or touching social security payments to retirees.

Darman was scheduled to meet with Bush and the new cabinet on Monday afternoon to discuss plans for drafting a revised budget for the 1990 financial year, which starts on Oct 1.

He said Bush had not yet made any decisions on the budget. "What I have amounts to an extremely long list of possibilities (for cuts)," Darman told the panel when asked what programmes he would recommend be cut to balance the budget. He said he was convinced the cuts were workable.

One item he may seek to cut is the federal workforce. "I am not of the view that we have hit bottom in terms of the size of the

federal government," he said. Social welfare programmes other than social security will have to be considered for cuts, he said.

The lawmakers noted that Bush's campaign pledge to reject any tax increase will make it even more difficult to cut the deficit and pay for increases in drug enforcement and education, for the clean-up of nuclear waste plants and for the bail-out of failed savings and loans.

Challenged According to the administration, President Reagan's last budget reduced the deficit to \$92.5 billion in 1990 from an estimated \$161 billion in 1989—

figures challenged by many economists. Without any changes in federal policies, the 1990 budget would be about \$127 to \$141 billion.

The federal budget law requires a deficit of no more than \$100 billion in 1990 and envisions a balanced budget by 1993.

During the two days Darman repeatedly told the committee that Bush would reject any revenue increase which the American public would view as a tax hike. While he might view gasoline, alcohol and cigarette taxes as user fees to compensate for their costs to society, the public would view them as taxes and they would not be raised.



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LONDON (Alpha Stocks)			LONDON (Beta Stocks)		
NAME	LAST	210.5	NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
ABBEY LIFE	309.0	225/0	2ND ALICE	784/0	784/0
ADT LTD	131/0	278/0	600 GROUP	116/0	115/0
AD LYONS	475/0	481/0	A.AMER TS	387/0	386/0
ALSTRAND	165/0	585/0	A.B.ELECT	386/0	386/0
ARGYLE GP	183.0		A.S.W.HLD	206/0	206/0
ASDA GP	142/0		A.B.KEAT	90/0	90/0
BAA	275/4		AARONSON	303/0	304/0
BAT	326/0		ADISON	120/0	120/0
BAT IND	496.0		ADONIS	32/4	33/0
BARCLAYS	435/0		ADONIS	157/0	156/0
BASS	875/0		ALEX WRCU	163/0	164/0
BEAZER	195/0		ALEXON	322/0	323/0
BEECHAM	915.0		ALLD COLL	126/0	126/0
BELSFORD	400.0		ALLD IR B	255/0	256/0
BICC PLC	413/0		ALLD LND	132/0	131/0
BLUE ARROW	85/0		ALLD PLMT	66/0	66/0
BLUE CIRC	468/0		ALLIANCE	894/0	894/0
BOC GP	448/0		AMBER DAY	41/0	41/0
BOOTS CO	244/0		AMEC	356/0	353/0
BPF IND	235.0		AMER TST	131/4	132/0
BR BROW	177/0		AMERIAN	516/0	514/0
BR AEROS	487.0		AMERIAN	261/0	261/0
BR GAS	171.0		ANGLIA TV	216/0	219/0
BR LAND	344/0		ANSBACHER	79/0	78/0
B.P.	266/0		ASPLEYARD	415/0	413/0
B.P.PP	165.0		APV PLC	135/0	135/0
BR STEEL	70/0		ASHLEY LA	107/0	108/0
BR TELCOM	268.0		AUS REE A	218/0	219/0
BURMAN OL	521/0		AUTO SEC	251/0	251/0
BURTON	198.5		AVDEL PLC	99/4	99/0
CABLEWIR	397/0		AVESCO	118/0	118/0
CADBURYS	348/0		AVIS EUR	341/0	340/0
CALOR GRP	386.0		AVON RUBB	615/0	615/0
CRITL R T	720/0		B.MEMILL	215/0	215/0
COOKSON	288/4		BATLL JRI	86/4	87/0
COURTAULD	287.0		BAIRD W	239/0	240/0
DAI	326.0		BANK IRE	250/0	251/0
DIXONS	145/0		BANKER IT	77/0	77/0
ENG CHINA	488/0		BARON GP	152/0	153/0
ENTER OIL	514.0		BART DEV	179/0	178/0
FCT BASK	134/0		BAWES C	27/0	27/0
FERRANTI	108.0		BBA GROUP	168/0	168/0
FISONS	271/0		BEAR B.M	1/6	1/4
GATEWAY	172.0		BEAR BRID	106/0	106/0
GEN ACCID	914/0		BEATTIE J	154/0	156/0
GEN ELEC	206/0		BELIAN	179/0	179/0
GLAXO	125.0		BELLEVUE	50/0	50/0
GRANDAD	342/0		BELLWAY	232/0	233/0
GLOBE	154.0		BENROSE	223/0	223/0
GLYMED	301.0		BENLOX HD	66/0	66/0
GUARD RYL	199.0		BERKELEY	208/0	209/0
GKN	333.0		BKH GROUP	94/0	94/0
GUINNESS	366/0		BK OF SCO	94/0	94/0
HAWES A	805/0		BLCK L 2	13/2	13/0
HANSON	166.5		BNETT + F	105/0	105/0
HARRIS C	683/0		WILLIAMS	246/0	245/0
HILLER STD	598/0		WILLIS FB	235/0	235/0
INNSIDE	257.0		WIMPEY	291/0	291/0
ICI	088.0		WOOLWORTH	265/0	265/0

World Indices				
INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-3R	PREV-YR
FT 30 ORD	1580.7	1569.5	1563.3	1455.3
FT 500 SHR	1084.0	1084.0	1074.4	1008.8
FT ALL SHR	993.14	993.14	988.99	926.59
FT GOV SEC	88.35	88.35	88.15	87.03
FT GOLD MN	169.0	169.0	164.3	161.9
FT NINES F	610.64	610.64	613.18	565.31
FT OIL	1871.3	1871.3	1866.7	1725.4
FT MLD DLR	142.26	141.86	141.07	139.21
FT MLD STG	148.50	148.50	148.50	139.21
FT MLD LOC	127.38	127.31	127.58	123.40

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS QUIETLY FIRM IN LATE TRADE

LONDON, JAN 24, REUTER - EQUITIES REMAINED FIRM IN LATE TRADE AS U.K. INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS EUROPEAN AND U.S. INVESTORS CONTINUED TO SELECTIVELY BUY STOCKS, DEALERS SAID.

A RISE ON WALL STREET AND A FIRMER DOLLAR ALSO HELPED WITH THE FTSE 100 SHARE INDEX AT 1540 GHT UP 10.9 POINTS AT 1,935.6 AFTER TOUCHING A PEAK OF 1,938.3 AT 1445 GHT.

TRADERS SAID SENTIMENT WAS BOOSTED BY THE LATEST REPORT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY (CBI) WHICH SHOWED THAT U.K. MANUFACTURERS EXPECTED OUTPUT TO GROW MORE SLOWLY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980.

INVESTORS TOOK HEART FROM THE CBI SURVEY BECAUSE IT GAVE FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT LAST YEAR'S RISE IN INTEREST RATES WAS HAVING THE DESIRED EFFECT IN SLOWING THE ECONOMY, DEALERS SAID.

THE KEY THREE MONTHS STERLING INTERBANK RATE, USED AS A GUIDE TO THE LEVEL OF BASE RATES, WAS QUOTED AT 13-1/8 1/16 PCT WITH THE YIELD CURVE DOWNWARD SLOPING TO 12-9/16 7/16 PCT AT ONE YEAR. A DOWNWARD SLOPING YIELD CURVE INDICATES A MARKET PERCEPTION THAT THE NEXT MOVE IN INTEREST RATES IS DOWN.

THERE WAS LITTLE FRESH NEWS TODAY TO EXCITE INTEREST BUT THE EXPIRY OF SOME CALL OPTIONS PROMPTED WRITERS OF THOSE OPTIONS TO COVER POSITIONS IN THE UNDERLYING STOCK, DEALERS SAID.

London Gold

LONDON, JAN 24, REUTER - GOLD BULLION CLOSED ON ITS LOWS AFTER TRADING QUIETLY THROUGHOUT THE DAY, FINISHING AT 406.50/407.00 DLR AN OUNCE DOWN ABOUT ONE DLR FROM THE OPENING AND COMPARED WITH THE 407.50/408.00 PREVIOUS CLOSE.

DEALERS SAID THE MAJOR INFLUENCE ON BULLION WAS DOLLAR FLUCTUATIONS AND IT WAS PUSHED TO THE LOWER CLOSE AFTER THE CURRENCY WAS BUOYED BY CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY FROM THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD CHAIRMAN, ALAN GREENSPAN.

GREENSPAN SAID THE FEDERAL RESERVE SHOULD ERR ON THE SIDE OF RESTRICTIVENESS.

London Money Market

LONDON, JAN 24, REUTER - MONEY MARKET RATES TRADED LITTLE CHANGED AS OPERATORS DISPLAYED CAUTION AROUND KEY BRITISH TRADE DATA DUE FRIDAY, DEALERS SAID.

SHORT DATES REMAINED FIRM, WHILE LONGER RATES FIRMED marginally ON SLIGHTLY NERVOUS SENTIMENT, MAKING UP FOR THE EASIER TONE THEY HAD SHOWN IN THE LAST FEW DAYS.

"THE MARKET IS RETRACTING ITS STEPS AFTER REALISING IT HAD BECOME A LITTLE TOO EXCITED," ONE DEALER SAID.

THE BENCHMARK THREE MONTH INTERBANK WAS QUOTED AT 13-1/8 1/16 PCT IN LATE TRADING, A GAIN OF 1/16 POINT FROM LAST NIGHT'S CLOSE.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	1980/05	DKK	FFR	OPG
DLR	1.7800	1.8235/45	6.2060/90	NOON
STG	17805/15	3.2425/56	11.0540/0655	NOON
DKK	1.8212/8292	3.2425/56	29.30/46	NOON
FFR	6.2105/2225	110.53/071		FIX
SFR	1.5455-5463	2.7502-7535	84.62-72	1500
NFL	2.0610	3.6690	112.89	FIX
EDU	1.14123	0.641682	2.08446	CLSE
SDJ	1.31811	0.744947	7.09560	CLSE
YEN	126.63/73	225.34/66	8.28564	NOON
SOR RATE	19/01/1989	OTHERS	24/01/1989	

DOOT MEHR	430/0	428/0	NICKSON	226/0	225/0	ROUTLAND T	39/0	40/0
BR ARROW	112/0	113/0	NIGGS HIL	322/0	323/0	RYAN INTL	134/0	133/0
BR ASSOCI	74/4	74/4	NMBRO CTO	50/0	50/0	SAGA GRP	227/0	228/0
BR DREGIT	136/0	136/0	NMBRO ZOP	265/0	265/0	SALE TURY	215/0	217/0
BR VITA	232/0	231/0	NMTR SPHR	137/0	136/0	SALVESSEN	156/0	156/0
BRENT CHE	137/0	137/0	NOUES PR	117/0	114/0	SAVILLE G	46/4	47/0
BRENT WCR	356/0	355/0	NOUDEN CP	135/0	135/0	SAVOY "A"	835/0	830/0
BROWN	179/0	178/0	NOVINCOSN	106/0	106/0	SCHW-GLAS	258/0	258/0
BRITAIN SE	170/0	170/0	ITV CORP	93/0	93/0	SCOT MTR	165/0	166/0
BRITANNIC	355/0	354/0	HCE-FZ-PD	299/0	300/0	SCOT T.I.	137/0	137/0
BRIXTON E	360/0	360/0	INRY M.DV	416/0	415/0	SCOT MET	151/0	152/0
BROWN SHI	336/0	337/0	INDPROT W	12/0	12/0	SCOT MORT	109/0	109/0
BRYANT GR	126/0	126/0	INOCO PLC	41/0	42/0	SCOT-AM-I	97/0	96/4
BSG INTL	61/0	61/0	INT-BJ-CH	122/0	122/0	SCT NAT A	32/0	32/0
BUDGENS	116/0	116/0	INT-CITY	87/0	83/4	SCT NAT I	87/4	87/4
BULLOUGH	453/0	453/0	JINKS-FTF	48/2	48/0	SCT NAT W	7/0	7/0
BULNER HP	154/0	155/0	JOS HODGS	133/0	134/0	SECS TST	111/0	111/4
CALENDONIA	382/0	380/0	KALAMAZOO	40/0	40/0	SELECT AS	82/0	82/0
CAMB ELEC	246/0	246/0	KALON GRP	33/0	33/0	SHANDWICK	468/0	465/0
CAMP INST	52/0	52/0	KELT ENRY	44/0	44/0	SHERATON S	70/0	70/0
CANFORD E	235/0	234/0	KETSON	44/0	46/0	SHIRE INV	235/0	235/0
CANNING W	210/0	210/0	KLWRT CHR	125/4	125/4	SIMON ENG	310/0	310/0
CANNON ST	255/0	255/0	KLWRT O'S	135/0	134/0	SINGERRRF	61/0	61/0
CAP-RADIO	612/0	615/0	KLWRT SHL	152/0	152/0	SMITH D	310/0	310/0
CARADON	340/0	339/0	KWIK SAVE	390/0	392/0	SOUND DIF	22/0	22/0
CARLCO EN	157/0	157/0	KWIK-FIT	108/0	110/0	SPRING RAM	186/0	186/0
CATTLE HD	56/0	57/0	LAING 'A'	290/0	290/0	SPRX-SARC	206/0	206/0
CAULDOWN	10/4	10/4	LAING ORD	290/0	290/0	ST-ANDREW	193/0	192/0
CENTL ITV	594/0	595/0	LAING PRP	483/0	480/0	ST-JOHNEN	37/4	37/4
CHAM PHRR	141/0	141/0	LAIRD GRP	232/0	231/0	STAKIS	101/0	102/0
CHARTERHA	23/4	23/4	LANDLEISU	374/0	376/0	STEETLEY	355/0	353/0
CHAS CHUR	85/0	85/0	LARNRUE W	130/0	130/0	STENDH PR	178/0	177/0
CHLORIDE	59/0	60/0	LDN & MET	147/0	148/0	STODDARD	47/0	47/0
CHRISTIES	658/0	656/0	LDN ATLAN	271/0	270/0	STORMGUAU	15/0	15/0
CI GROUP	46/0	46/0	LDN INTP	208/0	208/0	STURGE HD	248/0	247/0
CTRL SEC	47/0	47/0	LDN SNOB	338/0	338/0	TELMEYRKH	50/0	50/0
CTRAL OIL	196/0	198/0	LDN TOL	125/0	124/0	TEMPLE TA	252/0	250/0
CRYSTALITE	350/0	359/0	LDNEMERIN	125/0	125/0	THAMES TV	386/0	390/0
COATES BR	290/0	287/0	LDN CORP	155/0	155/0	THOMSON S	33/0	33/0
COLLINS W	750/0	750/0	LEX SEAWC	32/0	32/0	THORNTONS	138/0	138/0
COLLINS W	880/0	880/0	LIFE SCIE	61/0	61/0	THROGTH	405/0	405/0
COLLOROLL	152/0	152/0	LILLY FFI	57/4	57/4	TI GROUP	407/0	405/0
COMPAS CR	281/0	281/0	LLOYD TIP	200/0	200/0	YIE RACK	87/0	87/0
COMPAS NW	280/0	281/0	LOCAL LON	500/0	498/0	TIME PROD	216/0	216/0
CONNELLS	218/0	220/0	LOGICA	379/0	378/0	TIPPOCK	461/0	462/0
COSTANT	324/0	322/0	LOW (WH)	265/0	262/0	TOKWINS F	220/0	220/0
COURTNS FR	159/0	158/0	LOVAMORR	238/0	238/0	TOTAL	130/0	130/0
COMIE (T)	127/0	124/0	LOANDES	47/0	47/0	TOZER KAM	100/0	101/0
CRH	151/0	151/0	M&G GROUP	298/0	299/0	TR CITY	80/0	80/0
CRODA INT	187/0	187/0	M.C.-PACIF	206/0	207/0	TR PACIFIC	57/4	58/0
CRYSTALAT	146/0	146/0	MACARTHY	250/0	249/0	TR PROPTY	52/4	52/4
CTRY PROF	262/0	262/0	MACFARLINE	200/0	201/0	TR TRSTEE	129/0	129/0
DARES EST	28/2	28/0	MAI	91/0	92/0	TRIMOCO	46/0	46/4
DAVIS GDO	160/0	160/0	MAJEDIE	217/0	217/0	TRIPLEX	173/0	174/0
DAVID CORP	188/0	188/0	MANNERS	195/0	195/0	TRITON ER	167/0	165/0
DELTA GRP	289/0	288/0	MARLEY	173/0	172/0	TRSPRT DV	253/0	253/0
DEVENISH	292/0	292/0	MATTHEWS	83/0	84/0	TV SW NLD	68/0	68/0
DEWHIRST	41/4	41/4	MCKENDERS	107/0	107/0	TYS ENTER	295/0	297/0
DIPLOMA	203/0	203/0	MCKENHIE	266/0	268/0	U-BORLAND	72/0	73/0
DONALDSON	280/0	281/0	MEEC	206/0	208/0	U-C	33/0	33/0
DOUGLAS B	260/0	261/0	MENZIES	107/0	107/0	U-BORLAND	155/0	155/0
DOWDINGEN	63/0	64/0	MERCH. TST	164/0	164/0	U-CIFER	12/0	12/0
DOWTY GRP	239/0	238/0	MERLIN LN	120/0	121/0	U-CITYVSN	106/0	106/0
DRAYTON C	485/0	485/0	METAL CLS	198/0	198/0	U-DEWEY U	105/0	106/0
DRUG	477/0	476/0	METALRAX	86/0	86/0	U-DURHAM	59/0	58/0
DUKESNIST	69/0	70/0	MEYER INT	396/0	396/0	U-EXPLAIR	46/0	46/0
DUNDEE LD	286/0	286/0	MIDSUMMER	179/0	179/0	U-FIELDS	41/0	41/0
DUNHILL	214/0	215/0	MIL HODGSS	108/0	108/0	U-FLOED E	17/6	18/0
EAGLE TEST	13/4	13/4	MINT CILTS	165/0	165/0	U-FRD SEL	99/0	98/0
EDIN I.T	168/0	168/0	MOL CHOR	219/0	219/0	U-HYD PT	265/0	265/0
EDMOND HD	39/4	39/4	MONKS IT	226/0	226/0	U-HUGR-HT	134/0	135/0
ELECTRA	239/0	239/0	MORGAN CR	249/0	250/0	U-HUGRES	47/0	47/0
ELECTROCH	205/0	205/0	MORLAND	663/0	660/0	U-ISRAEL	19/0	19/0
ENAP	216/0	216/0	MOUTLEIGH	154/4	155/0	U-KINICK	47/4	47/0
EMPIRE ST	196/0	196/0	MOWLEN J	374/0	375/0	U-LDN FRF	173/0	173/0
ERA GROUP	58/0	58/0	MURRY TMOH	195/0	195/4	U-MICROW	40/0	40/0
EURO.HOME	283/0	285/0	MURRY INTL	195/4	195/4	U-MOLNAR	37/0	37/0
EUROTHERN	395/0	395/0	NS INTL	123/0	123/0	U-MONNIT	20/4	20/4
EURNIT UN	567/0	566/0	N.BRIT CA	367/0	367/0	U-MRAYDON	375/0	380/0
EURTEL WIT	46/0	46/0	N.E.ENG.IND	122/0	122/0	U-PAYVON	5/4	5/4
EVODE GRP	185/0	185/0	NET-TELECH	141/0	141/0	U-RIDSVNTH	222/0	222/0
EXXON CORP	44/0	44/0	NEATLINT	92/0	92/0	U-SAC INT	67/0	68/0
EXPANET	168/0	168/0	NORRIS	313/0	311/0	U-SELECTV	346/0	346/0
F&C ENTER	29/0	29/0	NORFOLK C	33/6	34/4	U-STH BUS	397/0	388/0
F&C ELROT	239/0	238/0	NORMANS	59/4	59/4	U-STHNOH	203/0	203/0
F&C PACIF	158/0	159/0	NORTAMBR	318/0	317/0	U-T-VJAM	148/0	150/0
F&C SMILLR	70/4	70/0	NORTH OPR	173/0	173/0	U-TRAND W	13/0	12/0
FARNELL E	153/0	153/0	NSH PLC	80/0	79/0	U-TRWOOD	34/2	34/0
FED.HOUSH	209/0	210/0	NORONAPCO	188/0	188/0	U-UTR GRP	183/0	183/0
FENNER JH	181/0	182/0	O'SEAS IT	198/0	198/0	U-WMS LEI	44/0	44/0
FERGUSON	250/0	251/0	OCEAN TPT	268/0	267/0	UNDERWOOD	149/0	149/0
FINLAN GP	82/0	83/0	OCEANICS	17/0	17/0	UNION DIS	475/0	478/0
FINLAY J	112/0	112/0	OSSORY EST	18/4	18/4	UNITECH	214/0	213/0
FITCH LON	263/0	265/0	OWNERS AB	81/0	81/0	UTD.-INDUS	53/0	52/0
GALLFORD	72/0	72/0	OXFORD INS	219/0	221/0	UTD.SCIEN	182/0	181/0
GARDINER	47/0	47/0	P & O UTS	59/0	60/0	VALUERICH	54/4	55/0
GEEST	253/0	253/0	P & P PLC	221/0	221/0	VAUX GPR	740/0	740/0
GIL INTL	120/0	120/0	PAL PACIFIC	150/0	152/0	VERSON	27/0	27/0
GERDMANT	271/0	270/0	PA (M)	39/0	40/0	VG INSTMT	255/0	255/0
GETSNETER	237/0	237/0	PENTOS PLC	97/0	97/0	VICKERS	174/0	173/0
GOODE DUR	114/0	114/0	PERSONAM	76/0	76/0	VPI GROUP	174/0	173/0
GRANPH HD	282/0	283/0	PERRY GRP	205/0	205/0	WAGON HDG	326/0	325/0
GREEN KONG	520/0	518/0	PENSHIMOR	153/0	153/0	WARD HLDS	118/0	118/0
GREENLW U	293/0	292/0	PHOENIX	87/0	87/0	WARDLE ST	622/0	622/0
GREYCOAT	429/0	428/0	PICKNICK	228/0	228/0	WATERD O	73/0	73/0
GRMP TTY	55/0	55/0	PORTER CH	91/0	91/0	WATERD U	73/0	73/0
GR PTLYND	374/0	375/0	PRESTWICH	118/0	118/0	WATES CTO	179/0	179/0
GUNINS MA	124/0	124/0	PRIEST (B)	22/2	22/0	WATTS B&B	347/0	345/0
GUS ORD	610/0	600/0	PRIOSTMA	397/0	395/0	W&CS GRP	209/0	208/0
GUTTY ORIE	257/0	258/0	PROSECUR	179/0	178/0	WEIR GRP	269/0	268/0
GVTI STRA	343/0	342/0	PROUDFOOT	234/0	233/0	WEMBLEY	115/0	115/0
GUN DIS	150/0	150/0	PROV FIML	323/0	322/0	WESTBURY	244/0	244/0
HALL (W)	155/0	155/0	RAINE IND	92/0	92/0	WESTLAND	127/0	126/0
HALMA	102/0	102/0	RATERS	403/0	404/0	WHEATAY	91/0	91/0
HAMBROS J	230/0	229/0	REACH EV	188/0	188/0	WICKER PR	208/0	205/0
HANMERSON	885/0	880/0	REFUGE GP	345/0	345/0	WILKES GRN	80/0	81/0
HATHIN LE	46/0	46/0	REGALITON	122/0	121/0	WILSON ZBL	238/0	238/0
HAZELWOOD	220/0	220/0	REGENTCRST	78/0	78/0	WILSON CON	173/0	173/0
HEATH(C)E	438/0	434/0	RENOLD	78/2	79/0	WOLSELEY	256/0	256/0
HELICAL B	32/4	32/4	RENTOKIL	241/0	241/0	WOLVARDU	436/0	435/0
HELICAL R	279/0	280/0	ROBINSON	421/0	421/0	WPP GRP	601/0	600/0
HEPMORTH	253/0	252/0	ROCKFORT	86/0	87/0	WST MOTOR	585/0	584/0
HESTAR	280/0	280/0	ROCKWARE	70/0	71/0	YALEVALO	325/0	324/0
HEYWOOD W	296/0	295/0	ROMNEY	421/0	421/0	YORK CHEM	273/0	272/0
						YOUNG (R)	147/0	147/0

Gold dives

Dollar rebounds on Greenspan statement

LONDON, Jan 24. (Reuters): The dollar rebounded today after remarks by US Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan which dealers said held out the prospect of higher US interest rates.

The US Central Bank chief said in testimony to Congress in Washington that monetary policy needed to err on the side of restrictiveness because, if the economy continued to grow indefinitely at the recent pace, inflation could accelerate significantly.

The dollar ended in London at 1.8395 marks and 127.60 yen after hitting lows of 1.8230 and 126.65 earlier. It closed yesterday at 1.8380 and 127.60.

Sales
The threat of central bank dollar sales has been the strength of the US currency this week. Concerned bank intervention combined with higher European interest rates to knock it off 3-1/2-month highs hit last week above 1.87 marks.

Today was the first time that central banks had not intervened on the market for a week.

US share prices were supported by a higher dollar and the

Dow Jones industrial index rose 24.11 points to 2,242.30 points by midday in moderate turnover.

Greenspan's testimony presented "nothing new" to the stock market, said A.G. Moore, director of research at Argus Research of the United States.

Strength
But analysts said a US Labour Department report which showed labour costs rose five per cent in 1988 against 3.6 per cent in the previous year indicated continued economic strength.

The gold price, reacting to the stronger dollar, closed in London at \$406.75 an ounce, down one dollar yesterday's finish.

The price of Brent blend crude oil from Britain's North Sea was quoted in late business in London at \$15.75 a barrel for February delivery, 45 cents down on the same time yesterday.

The 30-year benchmark US Treasury bond was quoted at 101-11/32 per cent, yielding 8.87 per cent.

In London, equities remained firm in late trade as UK institutions as well as European and US investors continued to selectively buy stocks, dealers said.

A rise on Wall Street and a

firmer dollar also helped with the FTSE 100 share index at 1540 GMT up 10.9 points at 1,935.6 after touching a peak of 1,938.3 at 1445 GMT.

Traders said sentiment was boosted by the latest report of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) which showed that UK manufacturers expected output to grow more slowly in the first quarter of 1989.

Survey
Investors took heart from the CBI survey because it gave further evidence that last year's rise in interest rates was having the desired effect in slowing the economy, dealers said.

The key three months sterling interbank rate, used as a guide to the level of base rates, was quoted at 13-1/8 1/16 per cent with the yield curve downward sloping to 12-9/16 7/16 per cent at one year. A downward sloping yield curve indicates a market perception that the next move in interest rates is down.

There was little fresh news today to excite interest but the expiry of some call options prompted writers of those options to cover positions in the underlying stock, dealers said.

Dealers said news that UK building society mortgage commitments fell in December to £2.2 billion from 3.5 billion in November also helped sentiment. This was the lowest level of new business in nearly two years and another sign that high interest rates were beginning to slow the economy, dealers said.

There was talk of a £50 million buy programme for blue chips today but traders were unable to pin down the source.

The rise of the dollar, which rallied after congressional testimony from Fed chairman Alan Greenspan and in the absence of central bank intervention, helped exporters with ICI up a net 16p to 1,091, Glaxo 10p to 1,121 and Wellcome 11p to 476.

Confident
Brewer Bass stood a net 12p up at 878 after its annual general meeting. Analysts said the AGM report was a confident one and noted that profits of £65 million from the sale of hotels in Germany would be included in the half-year results.

They said the brewing sector had suffered of late on worries over the current Monopolies Commission inquiry into the

industry's retailing practices.

The commission's report is due to be published next month but the market now believes the suggested changes will not be as severe as first feared. Among other brewers, Allied Lyons was up 4p to 472 and Scottish and Newcastle 5p to 405.

Consolidated Goldfields was 4p down at 1281 with the market awaiting a ruling by Trade and Industry Secretary Lord Young on whether Minorco's hostile bid can go ahead.

There was also some vague market talk that Minorco was already talking to prospective buyers of Cons Gold's South African interests despite not yet obtaining approval to bid again for the company.

Minorco shares were unchanged at 1,275 US cents.

Analysts speculated that if the Minorco bid is cleared the Cons Gold share price would jump to around the 1,400p level in anticipation of a fresh Minorco offer.

Oils were dull as the crude price eased further with Enterprise down 5p to 514 and Lasso 2p easier at 472. Oil major BP shed 2p to 267.



A young stock trader pushed his way through to trading counter of the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday. Hectic wrestling took place on the trading floor as shares surged to a new high of 31,557.88 at the close of trading. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jazairy re-elected IFAD chief

ROME, Jan 24. (OPECNA): The governing council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) today unanimously re-elected Dr Idriss Jazairy as president of the Rome-based agency for a four-year term.

The decision was taken at the opening session of the 12th annual meeting of the council which opened today.

Lending
Addressing the council, Jazairy said IFAD was always able to adjust its lending operations to meet the needs of the rural poor in low-income, food-deficit developing countries.

He said IFAD had made consistent efforts to cushion its projects from natural disasters and sudden adverse movements in the international economy.

He told the council that the least developed countries received 45 per cent of the loans extended by IFAD during 1985-88, while in the first seven years of the agency's operations, the percentage was around 33.

In order to achieve greater efficiency, the fund was considering the possibility of a more direct involvement in project

appraisal, implementation and supervision.

The council meeting is being chaired by Dutch Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Gerrit Braks, with Basir El Mabrouk Said, Libyan permanent representative to the UN agencies here, and Justin G. Mukando, Zambia's Minister for Agriculture and Co-operatives, serving as vice-chairmen.

In a brief address, Braks said the outcome of the current round of negotiations aimed at securing commitments towards the fund's third replenishment were "crucial", adding that being aware of the difficulties encountered last year, the ministers had set a deadline for the consultations to end, during the current session.

"We have made good progress and received considerable commitments, but we have not yet reached the target we have set ourselves," he said, adding "however, I am hopeful that we will be able to move close to the outcome that all of us are seeking."

Since its establishment in December 1977, the fund has helped channel over \$10 billion in

loans and grants to agricultural projects in 91 developing countries across the world.

This total includes \$2.60 billion provided by IFAD in loans and grants and multiplied by three-to-one matching funds from co-financiers and beneficiary governments.

IFAD is one of the youngest specialised agencies in the United Nations system and the first international financial institution created to help the world's rural poor. Its main financial support comes from OPEC and OECD states.

IFAD is also engaged in a special programme with a target of \$300 million for sub-Saharan African countries affected by drought and desertification.

Programmes
The emphasis of IFAD programmes is increasingly on traditional crop development, credit delivery to small-scale irrigation schemes, low-cost self-help environmental protection projects, applied research programmes, development of livestock and fisheries and rural off-farm activities aimed at increasing employment opportunities and income levels.

President wins assurances of co-operation

Note of harmony prevails as Bush meets with legislators

WASHINGTON, Jan 24. (Reuters): President Bush, opening his quest for a "new engagement" with Congress, won assurances of co-operation from legislative leaders in both parties today at a White House meeting to present his preliminary agenda.

Jim Wright, Speaker of the House of Representatives, told reporters afterwards Bush would submit his own administration's budget proposal to Congress by the middle of February.

But the new President offered few details of how he would tackle the huge federal budget deficit — his top priority.

"It was really a love feast. It was an occasion where the theme was bipartisan co-operation," Senator John Chafee, a Rhode Island Republican, said as he emerged from the meeting.

"I don't think he told us anything we didn't know but we had a very fine session," Assistant Senate Democratic leader Alan Cranston added.

Quite

Cranston, a California Democrat, told reporters the atmosphere is quite different from legislative meetings conducted by former President Reagan, who stepped down as US leader last Friday after eight years in office.

Bush demonstrated an "obvious, eager desire" to work with Congress and avoided the kind of antagonistic tone that often characterised Reagan's initial relations with House Speaker "Tip" O'Neill and the congressional Democrats, Cranston said.

He said few specifics were dis-

cussed. Bush has promised to flesh out his plans in a Feb 9 speech to Congress and Senate Republican leader Robert Dole said he would submit a detailed spending blueprint the next day.

Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell said Bush would present "a variation on the Reagan budget" which called for a two per cent real increase in defence spending and the elimination of more than 80 domestic programmes.

Reagan said his budget, which called for overall spending of \$1.15 trillion, would cut the deficit to \$92.5 billion in the 1990 budget year, which begins on Oct 1.

Mitchell, a Maine lawmaker, said Bush would not have time to draw up a comprehensive budget of his own "but we would expect one with sufficient detail to make

clear what the President's priorities are."

Mitchell and Wright, who succeeded O'Neill in 1987, got the meeting off to a light-hearted start by giving Bush a crystal jar filled with pork rinds — his favourite snack — and a bottle of Texas hot pepper sauce.

Asked by a reporter what the significance of the hot sauce was, Wright replied: "We want to give a very warm welcome to the President."

Massive

Bush has said reducing the massive federal budget deficit is his number one priority, but many Democrats are sceptical he can meet that goal if he maintains the "no tax hike" pledge that he made repeatedly during his presidential campaign.

Asked how long the honey-

moon between Bush and Congress will last, Cranston said: "I hope this sweetness and light will last a long time. It will be good for the country if it can."

Bush, who arrived at the Oval Office at the crack of dawn, drawing a distinction between his presidency and the more leisurely pace of the Reagan era, invited Vice-President Dan Quayle and advisers to the legislative meeting.

After an hour-long session with the entire Republican and Democratic congressional leadership, he held another session of nearly equal length with the top five on Capitol Hill — Wright, Mitchell, Dole, Assistant Senate Republican leader Alan Simpson and House Republican leader Robert Michel.

UK oil output to resume in area shut by platform disaster

ABERDEEN, Scotland, Jan 24. (Reuters): Oil output will resume shortly in the area shut after a blast on the North Sea Piper Alpha platform killed 167 men last year, operators said today.

Occidental Petroleum said operations had resumed at its Flotta terminal off Scotland to allow output to re-start from the Tartan complex of oilfields.

Tartan and its two satellite fields Highlander and Petronella are operated by Texaco and are linked to the Piper, Claymore and Scapa fields.

Production

The six blast destroyed Piper Alpha in Britain's worst offshore disaster, which slashed 12 per cent off the country's North Sea oil output.

Occidental's pipeline network is used to transport oil and liquefied petroleum gas from the six fields to the Flotta terminal, Britain's second largest.

Oil from Tartan will now be piped 130 miles (210 km) to Flotta via the Claymore production platform, with the first delivery expected in 15 days. Tartan's output last June was nearly 30,000 barrels daily and that at its satellite fields Highlander and Petronella 24,200 and 14,300 respectively.

US banker in Kuwait talks

KUWAIT, Jan 24. (KUNA): Kuwait's Finance Minister Jassim Al Khorafi met today in his office the president of the US bank J.B. Morgan.

The managing director and director-general of the Kuwait Investment Authority Dr. Fahd Al Rashid and director of the US investments in the authority Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, also attended the meeting. They discussed bilateral relations and joint activities between the bank and the authority.

The visiting American banker, who concludes his visit tomorrow, also exchanged views with the Kuwaiti officials on latest situation of the world stock markets and reviewed a number of economic issues concerning the two countries.

The bank executive will also meet Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa, Governor of Kuwait's Central Bank Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah and K.I.A. officials to discuss the American-Kuwaiti investment issues.

Amman cuts spending

Jordan fights economic recession

AMMAN, Jan 24. (Reuters): Jordan, a country vital to Middle East stability and peace, is cutting spending to boost an economy hit by recession and dwindling Arab aid.

King Hussein flew to Saudi Arabia today to discuss financial aid as well as prospects for a long-delayed Arab summit meeting in Riyadh with King Fahd.

Jordanian officials and Arab diplomats said the King hoped for further financial backing from the Saudis, but Gulf-based Arab diplomats anticipated a cutback in aid from Riyadh, running at \$360 million a year for the past 10 years.

Tighten

Consumers will feel the pinch as the government tightens the purse strings to reduce budget and balance of payments deficits. But a lower-valued dinar has improved prospects for Jordan's exports, officials and economists said.

Since King Hussein cut ties with the occupied West Bank in July, Jordan has taken a lower diplomatic profile and economic concerns have come to the fore.

But Western and Arab diplomats say the kingdom remains a key to regional stability and will have a central role in any peace process. "This is no time for Jordan to be weakened for lack of cash," one Western banker said.

Central Bank deputy governor Maher Shukri said ministries and departments would have to stick closely to allocations set out in the 1989 calendar budget announced last month.

The budget of 1,035 billion dinars (\$2.12 billion at Central Bank rates) is 3.7 per cent down on the budgeted 1988 level, but the comparison is imprecise because of a drop of about one-third in the dinar's international value last year.

Revenue

Shukri described as conservative the domestic revenue forecast of \$47.5 million dinars (\$1.12 billion). This is one-tenth less than last year's figure but slightly higher than reported actual 1988 receipts.

Some Western and Jordanian economists said that, as in the past, the government had overestimated revenue and underestimated spending and the size of the eventual deficit.

"If they can keep to their figures, it is very good," said economist Fahed Al Fanek. "But experience shows otherwise."

A Jordanian banker said new opportunities had opened up for export industries, but he lamented moves to raise revenue by higher taxation, saying this would discourage investment.

Shukri said Jordan remained in the grip of recession. "Our

monetary policy is towards contraction and the budget's effect is recessionary. Credit is tight and should get tighter."

Shukri pledged to fight inflation, but declined to estimate the current rate. Prices of imported goods rose sharply after the dinar slid last year, but Shukri said some prices had fallen in real terms as businessmen narrowed profit margins in face of slack demand. No upward wage spiral had occurred, he said.

One Jordanian banking source said continued heavy government domestic borrowing could fuel inflation.

Shukri said it was too early to judge the impact of measures to brake imports and consumption, and stimulate exports and investment, but some signs were encouraging.

Refinancing

"We are seeing some benefits, especially on the investment front. The volume of exports is up, particularly agricultural goods, and manufacturers are selling well in the whole area."

The Central Bank was refinancing exports to new markets at competitive rates and demand for such credit was up, he said.

The budget projects a 122-million-dinar (\$250-million) deficit, nearly double the 1988 target but well below the actual reported shortfall of 227 million dinars (465 million).

Despite surprise, higher debt

World Bank bouquets for Morocco

RABAT, Jan 24. (Reuters): Liberal economic policies and export success are winning Morocco plaudits from the World Bank despite a report that its foreign debt, one of the world's highest, is even bigger than previously thought.

The bank's annual list of Third World debtors ranked Morocco in eighth place at the end of 1987 with debts of \$22 billion, up from \$17 billion calculated a year ago for end-1986.

Economic analysts said only part of the gap could be explained by a fall in the value of Morocco's dirham currency against the dollar. Recent Finance Ministry figures put total debt at no more than \$19 billion.

Str
"These figures have caused a bit of a stir. No one really seems to be able to explain them," a Western diplomat said.

But the figures do not seem to worry World Bank officials who are praising Morocco for briskly reviving its fortunes since it had to reschedule its debts in 1983.

"The strides made by Morocco in reducing the imbalances that have beset the economy since the financial crisis of 1983 can be characterised as nothing less than impressive," Kemal Davis, head of the bank's Morocco section, said recently.

Surplus

One of the few Arab countries with no oil, Morocco was hit hard by a steep fall in the price of phosphate, its main export, and sharp rises in the dollar and in world interest rates.

Morocco's success since stems from traditional International Monetary Fund (IMF) remedies of liberalisation and austerity, which brought a current account surplus of \$12 million in 1987.

The black ink, based on better trade figures, was the country's first for 13 years, and after a record harvest last year a far bigger 1988 surplus is expected.

Some Arab countries such as Egypt and Algeria have higher debts, but are better off when debt is expressed as a percentage of gross national product or compared to earnings from exports — two measures used by the bank to draw up its debtor list.

As a mark of favour, the bank last month lent Morocco \$200 million to help finance measures to liberalise trade and promote exports.

"The World Bank badly needs a success story and Morocco may just provide it," said a diplomat.

"They like the figures the government is producing."

He said cuts in subsidies and reorganisation of the tax base reduced the budget deficit to 6.2 per cent of gross domestic product in 1987. It was on target for five per cent in 1988 and 3.2 per cent in 1989.

Sacrifice
But some analysts say Morocco has moved near the top of the World Bank class at too high a sacrifice, increasing poverty and straining social cohesion among the country's 23 million people.

"The government's policies have undeniably had some success, notably increased exports. But at what price?" asked Nadir Ali of the left-wing daily Al Bayane. "In the country side it has been to the detriment of social equilibrium," he said.

Other critics say the government's only policy is belt-tightening to pay debts that will never be fully cleared.

They add that the government

has neglected investment in projects which would have made the economy less dependent on factors outside its control.

"The government has become transfixed by reimbursement and has left itself a very narrow margin of manoeuvre," said Professor Habbad El Malki, an economist at Rabat University.

He said inflation at under three per cent and economic growth last year of six per cent might bring joy to international creditors, but masked a fragile economic base.

The economy rests on agricul-

ture, which employs 60 per cent

of the country's workers, tourism, remittances from migrant workers, and sales of phosphate, used as fertiliser.

"The economy is very vulnerable ... (depending) on rain, on phosphates, and so on. We must also have policies which aim to exploit the development potential of the country," Malki said.

He suggested more investment in labour-intensive industries and more redistribution of income to stimulate domestic demand and help provide jobs for the 150,000 youngsters who enter the labour market each year.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Jan 24. (Reuters): Strong overseas buying of resources stocks turned the market around after a weak start. The All Ordinaries index rose 1.5 to 1,524.7.

TOKYO: Lower oil prices and a stronger yen pushed prices to a record close, as fears eased of inflation and higher interest rates. The Nikkei index rose 224.8 to 31,557.68.

HONG KONG: Stocks closed higher after another day of widely fluctuating prices. The Hang Seng index ended up 3.5 at 2,901.03.

SINGAPORE: Concern at news that Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had a coronary by-pass operation sent prices down. The Straits Times industrial index closed 8.32 points lower at 1,087.68.

BOMBAY: The exchange was closed for trading to let brokers complete work on pending settlements.

FRANKFURT: Prices opened

higher in lively trading but fell from early highs on profit-taking. An easier tone on Wall Street and the weaker dollar had little impact. At 1045 GMT the DAX index was up 9.52 at 1,327.73.

ZURICH: Shares closed steady to firmer as Swiss interest rates eased from recent highs. Turnover was still low. The All-Share Swiss index rose 2.1 to 964.7.

PARIS: Prices extended gains in quiet mid-day trading in the first session of the new account.

LONDON: Shares moved to their day's highs as the dollar firmed after Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan said inflation was too high and should be reduced. At 1440 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 13.5 at 1,938.2.

NEW YORK: Blue chips continued to gain in mid-morning along with the dollar, which was buoyed by Greenspan's remarks suggesting interest rates would stay firm. The Dow was up eight at 2,227.



The Ambassador of Bangladesh, K.M. Shehabuddin visited the local office of Biman, the national airlines of Bangladesh Monday. The managing director of Al Athla travel agency Tareq Al Naqeeb and the ambassador discussed the present business position and future prospects of Biman. Al Athla is the general sales agent of Biman. Picture shows (from left to right) M.A. Rahim Khan — economic counsellor, Bangladesh embassy, Tareq Al Naqeeb, K.M. Shehabuddin, Abdul Hai Bhuiyan — manager of Biman in Kuwait, and K.M. Badruddoja, Biman's station manager.

Statoll plans job cuts

OSLO, Jan 24. (Reuters): State-owned oil firm Statoil, Norway's biggest company, said today it planned to shed jobs over the next three years in a drive to cut costs.

Cornerstone of Norway's oil industry, Statoil has been hit hard by lower crude prices and by cost overruns at a refinery project at Mongstad, Western Norway.

It said it planned to cut 1,500 man-years from the 11,000 staff by the end of 1991 and cut costs by some two billion crowns (\$300 million) annually in that period. A man-year is the amount of work done by one staff member in a year.

Carmaker turns over new leaf in marketing

TOKYO, Jan 24. (Reuters): The day may come when a Japanese housewife heads for the local supermarket with a grocery list calling for a can of floor wax, a box of rice and a car.

A little car named Lettuce, aimed at housewives, went on sale at supermarkets this week. Sold only through supermarkets, the Lettuce costs 595,000 yen (\$4,700).

Offered

The mini-car, made by Mitsubishi, is being offered in red, white or black but not lettuce green.

"That's not a popular colour," a spokesman for the Seiyu supermarket chain said.



The new Japanese little car named Lettuce. (Reuters wirephoto)

TRAVEL

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1989

Long-distance cyclist Bettina Selby extols the joys of travel on two-wheels.

PERHAPS every bicycle should carry a warning notice: "Beware — this machine could seriously change your sense of values." I am living proof of the danger, having become an addicted bicycle traveller almost by accident.

It all started when my growing family wanted a change from holidays in a remote cottage in the Scottish Highlands.

Accordingly, one summer we assembled an assortment of five secondhand cycles, borrowed panniers and saddle bags and set off for a month touring Ireland.

I was not aware at first of how deeply the bicycling bug had bitten. It was certainly very pleasant bumbling along quiet roads slowly enough to hear the birds sing and smelling the fresh scents of the fields and hedgerows.

Freedom

What I appreciated most was the freedom from the tyranny of the motor car. The children became instant converts. Liberated from the boredom of being passengers, they found it fun and challenging to cover the miles by their own efforts.

There was always something new around the next corner which gave a sense of adventure. The pace was fast enough to hold the interest, slow enough to take in the nuances of the changing scene.

Back home in London I began to cycle regularly, finding it far more sensible than taking the car through the increasingly snarled-up traffic. The exercise ensured that I arrived at my destination feeling sharp and fit. I also discovered a whole new urban world, venturing down alleyways impossible for cars.

Long holidays were a feature of my teaching job and I used a lot of them to explore a Britain I hadn't known existed when I was a mere motorist.

A delightful network of little-used narrow lanes criss-crossed the land between the motorways, joining together ancient villages and hamlets.

I could often ride these byways all day, within a mile of busy roads, yet hearing nothing more intrusive than the occasional clatter of farm machinery. People called out friendly greetings as I passed, and I enjoyed many

Freedom from the motor car



Two cyclists stop for a breather on their travels.

cups of tea and conversations with people intrigued by the sight of a lone, middle-aged woman touring on a bicycle.

As I began to learn how to improve my bicycle to make it more comfortable and efficient, and as my cycling muscles became stronger, the tours grew longer. The idea of making a really long journey began to grow. By the time the last of the children had left home I was ready.

"Abroad" had been no more than a few short summer idylls in France, until, early one morning, I landed at Karachi airport, bound for Kathmandu 5,000 miles away.

Everyone said it was a foolhardy enterprise and that a woman travelling alone couldn't possibly come through Pakistan unscathed.

Easy

Much the same unsolicited gloomy advice was given about my subsequent journeys — Turkey, the Middle East, Egypt, Sudan, Uganda. In each of them, I was assured, I would fall prey to bandits, snakes, lascivious males or drug-crazed truck drivers. I would run short of essential supplies or the bicycle would break

down. "It's not like Europe you know."

Certainly, the trips haven't always been easy, but none has proved terminal either, and at no time have I been tempted to abandon a journey — all proved far too fascinating. Nor has it once occurred to me to change my mode of transport. The bicycle has proved as ideal for touring Asia as it did for pooling around Ireland and has enabled me to see a few small areas of the world in the same intimate way.

Disposed

Like a snail I carry enough to be self-sufficient, though in fact I seldom need to use the tent, as people in remote areas mostly insist on my being their guest. Four panniers easily accommodate all the clothing, medical supplies, bicycle tools, camping gear, waterproofs, books, and a hundred and one little extras.

Looking after the bicycle has proved to be no problem and when I have had to mend a puncture, the routine repair has earned me tremendous respect. "We did not know a woman could be an engineer," I was told in Egypt as a huge crowd gathered to watch, rewarding my efforts with prolonged applause.

Most people have been well disposed towards me. I have been offered money on several occasions because some kind person has been convinced I could only be cycling because I didn't have the bus fare.

Much of the Third World is striving hard to become industrialised, repeating many of the mistakes of the West (even the Kathmandu Valley now faces a traffic pollution problem). I like to imagine that I might have caused even a few people to have second thoughts about what is progress.

● Bettina Selby took up long-distance cycling at the age of 47 and wrote her first book, *Riding the Mountains Down*, on her return from her journey through the Himalayan valleys. She followed this with *Riding to Jerusalem*, tracing the routes of the Crusades through Europe and around the coast of Turkey and the Middle East. Her latest venture was a bicycle trip along the Nile to its source, taking her through Egypt and the war-torn countries of the Sudan and Uganda. The result, *Riding the Desert Trail* — is to be published by Chatto and Windus/The Hogarth Press (£12.95).

By E.S. Turner

A WARTIME photograph shows a forlorn-looking group of men trudging over the Dutch dunes carrying what looks like a long, rolled-up carpet. Their burden is Rembrandt's *The Night Watch* and they are bearing it to a temporary bombproof refuge.

This photograph, along with others showing the adventures of Rembrandt's masterpiece, is to be seen in the Rijksmuseum, in Amsterdam, where the painting occupies the dominant site.

It so happens that I first saw *The Night Watch* in 1939, when the Dutch Army was mobilising. The story then was that, in emergency, it could be lowered into a protected chamber at the press of a button. Perhaps this plan miscarried. Anyway, it was a pleasure to see the doyen of all those 17th-century Neighbourhood Watch pictures back in position (anyone averse to see more groups of poorly vigilantes will get his fill in the Franz Hals Museum in Haarlem).

Fifty years on, the feel of Holland is very different. Amsterdam is still a city of trams and sinuously weaving cyclists, and the patrician canal-side houses with their stepped gables are wonderfully easy on the eye; that is, provided the eye maintains its gaze above six feet from the ground. Up to that level the graffiti drive one to near despair.

Others cities suffer from morose scrawls, but Amsterdam has been savagely disfigured. Nowhere is spared the entrance to the Van Gogh Museum has large vertical surfaces which are a vandal's dream. And this is the country once notorious for the most fastidious cleanliness.

Legend

Instead it chose in the postwar years to become a legend for permissiveness, by which I do not mean the permissiveness that allows a tram driver I saw to propel his two-car vehicle through crowded streets with a small black passenger in his lap, demonstrating the controls and simultaneously handing out tickets, change and advice.

For reasons unknown, Amsterdam decided to outdo Paris, Hamburg and Port Said in "wickedness". In their cautiously nudging way the tourist brochures describe what is in store. Savour this sentence from *Sovereign Cities*: "It (Amsterdam) is also a mecca of art, where indeed the Rijksmuseum and Opera House vie with the Red Light District as main tourist attractions".

In the city of red lights and Rembrandt

A Dutch treat



A cyclist competes with a tram in Amsterdam.

The Holland Travel service says: "For those who cannot curb their curiosity any longer, take an evening stroll down into the Red Light District where the ladies of the night can be seen boldly displaying themselves in the windows."

Some brochures nudge harder than others. How does one locate these unvirginal haunts? Fodor's Guide quaintly informs the innocent that it will cost them a tip of five guilders to "the usual sources of information" (head porter, taxi driver, head barman or waiter), with a warning that the five shows "just might shock you beyond your wildest expectations".

Of Amsterdam's respectable attractions, one of the most popular is Anne Frank's House, an old narrow building by one of the quieter canals. Here, the queue has to be cut off in sections to avoid choking the cramped stairs up to the family hideout, behind the famous hinged bookcase.

The sombre refuge has something of the creepy quality of a priest-hole. What must astonish the visitor is that it took the Gestapo so long to ferret out their Jewish quarry, which was finally achieved thanks to an act of betrayal, late in the war.

What must also astonish the

visitor to these narrow canal houses are the difficulties with which the Dutch voluntarily saddled themselves by choosing to live on such a cramped vertical plan. Jutting from the gable tops are the familiar crane arms for hauling up furniture too wide for staircases.

These same domestic problems arose in Rembrandt's house, where the artist lived for 20 years. Much reorganised, it contains a large array of his etchings and drawings.

The toilets' twin departments are differentiated, not by the usual pictograms, but by reproductions of drawings by the master, one of a man in a characteristic attitude, the other of a woman squatting in bushes. What other famous artist has left similar visual aids for posterity?

The Franz Hals Museum in Haarlem makes a much recommended and agreeable excursion by fast, comfortable train, from Amsterdam.

Like Delft, Haarlem has a splendid market square. On a stall there a cheese called "Paschekaas" struck an odd note. Odder still was an elaborately staged display dedicated to Haarlem's early film industry, showing videos of the Dutch equivalent of Mack Sennett comedies, with giggly bathing belles and raffish policeman

exchanging clothes and bandage.

Near Haarlem is a statue to the legendary Pieter who saved the town by putting his finger in the dyke. It never happened, except in an American tale called *Hans Brinker, of the Silver Skates*. But since everyone wanted to believe the tale, the Dutch, in 1950 bowed to demand and put up the statue.

And so to the biggest dyke of all. In 1939 I rode in a bus over the Great Dyke which, only seven years earlier, had cut off the North Sea and turned the Zuider Zee into a fresh-water lake, the IJsselmeer. This arrow-straight, 20-mile rampart was festooned with the "asparagus" of tank traps and studded with pill-box forts, which when the time came defied the Wehrmacht throughout the five-day war.

Inland Maps of those days showed the new inland sea as balloon-shaped, but the balloon is now punctured and much shrivelled, thanks to the emergence of huge tracts of polder.

The wind can blow uncommonly sharp across the polder, and nowhere more briskly, or wetly, than at Enkhuizen, where a composite Zuider Zee village has been assembled, complete with workshops and windmill. Synthetic villages are not to everyone's taste, but this one shows discrimination and restraint. Anything which can take some of the tourist strain off Volendam and Marken must be commended.

Early this century, those two fishing villages on the Zuider Zee were so notorious for the venality of their inhabitants in the face of the brash new sight-seeing that the authorities had to step in. Back in 1939, I remember Runyonesque types from America parading in hired traditional costumes; not a sight to be seen twice.

At Enkhuizen are reminders of the social and economic consequences of shutting out the North Sea. Herring and anchovy were deprived of their spawning grounds, and the fishing fleets declined. Not every waterside community was anxious to end up engulfed in green, geometrical lines of polder.

No doubt the still-walkers of the English fens also rebelled when the Dukes of Bedford put their Dutch-derived ideas into effect. Meanwhile, who can fail to applaud a nation which, desiring of more living-room, takes it not from its neighbours but from the sea?

Scenery to take your breath away

Rendered speechless by the Himalayas

By Andrew Powell

DERVLA MURPHY got it about right, I think, when she wrote of the Annapurna Himal, "to gaze on these mountains almost lifts you off the ground with joy."

On my first trip to the Himalayas, it took me a little while fully to appreciate the truth of this statement. I flew from Kathmandu to Pokhara, the starting point for most treks in central Nepal, and, clambering from the plane down a rickety wooden ladder, stared expectantly around. Nothing. Not a hillock, never mind a mountain. Milky-white cloud blocked out everything beyond the end of the runway.

We lurched through Pokhara in a Land-Rover and stopped at the edge of a scruffy field. There the porters finished stowing the gear in large conical baskets, and we began to climb.

After about three hours of more or less unremitting effort we reached the top of a ridge and, as it was already late afternoon, pitched camp. The Sherpas being in no need of inexperienced helpers, I sat staring resentfully into the blankness.

After a while a curious black patch appeared in the middle of the sky. Then, abruptly, at an altitude where large aeroplanes are reduced to silver specks, a massive summit loomed momentarily into view.

Over the next hour, windows, as if in some gigantic Advent calendar, opened to reveal a jagged cliff-face, a shining snow-field, a blue corrugated glacier, a still higher ridge. By half past five, when the sunset began to tint the landscape a delicate shade of pink, the entire Annapurna range was clear of clouds.

Reasons

People may go trekking for a variety of reasons — to get fit, to be away from the telephone, to see strange and remote cultures — but the main point is to be rendered speechless.

Pokhara is the most important trekking centre in the Himalayas, chiefly because, owing to a quirk of geological evolution, the Annapurna range has hardly any foothills.

This means that the mountains rear up more abruptly than anywhere else on earth: Machapuchare, which appears, on a clear

day, to be at the end of the town's main street, rises almost vertically from 1,500 to 23,000ft.

This absence of foothills also means that it is relatively easy to get close to the big peaks and their glaciers. Until Sir Edmund Hillary built an airstrip for the Sherpas at Lukla, you had to walk for 12 days (now two) to get your first good view of Everest. From Pokhara you can have an equally impressive panorama from your hotel bedroom window.

Trekking began in the Himalayas about 25 years ago.

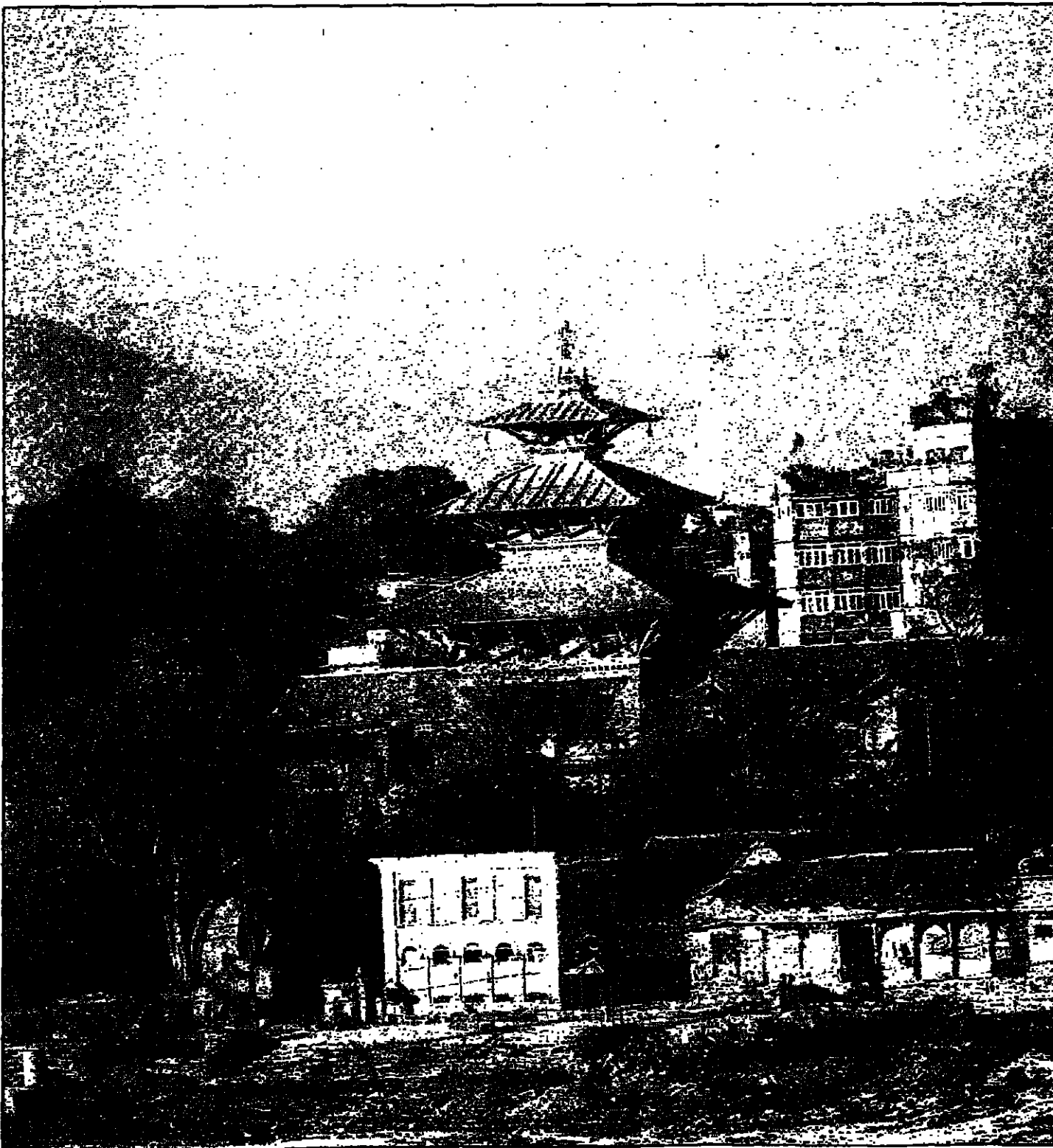
The Fifties and Sixties were the great mountaineering decades when the world's major peaks, the 14 which are over 8,000 metres (26,250ft) high, were climbed for the first time. Some members of the expeditions, perhaps reluctant to return to a rather less exhilarating lifestyle at home, stayed behind, including Colonel Jimmy Roberts of the British Army, who had taken part in a successful American Everest expedition in 1963.

Basing himself in Pokhara he started out in business with four tents and eight sleeping bags. The company he founded, Mountain Travel, now takes hundreds of people trekking each year from Sikkim in the east to Kashmir in the west, as well as providing Sherpas for Messner, Bonington and the leading mountaineers of today.

Tourism

Trekking has become mass tourism, albeit of the more adventurous and enterprising variety. Thousands of people now trek out of Pokhara every year, and, during the peak seasons (October-November, February-March) the trails are badly overcrowded. Even on the extremely tough 25-day "around Annapurna" route there are sometimes up to 200 people waiting to cross the 17,700ft Thorung Pass.

The situation is little better in the narrow valley which leads from the Sherpa capital of Namche Bazaar to Everest Base Camp. Not unnaturally people wish to see the world's highest mountain, or, in the case of Pokhara, the world's most spectacular mountain scenery, but unfortunately an increasing number are going home disillusioned — not because the mountains have changed, but because the quality of life on the



Kathmandu is the starting point for eight of the world's 14 highest mountains.

trail itself has steadily deteriorated. Along the most popular tracks the village restaurants no longer serve rice and

lentils, but lasagne and spaghetti bolognese. These paths are often badly littered, and some of the camping grounds have become

fairly squalid.

The principal form of pollution, however, is simply people. There can be absolutely no com-

parison between being surrounded by all-too-familiar voices, whether British, German, American or Australian, and

trekking through wild country, enjoying the world's most majestic scenery in solitude.

The problem has arisen because of the rapid growth of what is known as "tea-house trekking". Originally going on trek meant taking everything with you: tents, food, fuel, porters to carry it all, and a Sherpa mountain guide. Soon, however, the village people began to open guest houses and to serve food, and it became possible to go into the mountains with just a backpack at a fraction of the cost. The crowds began to arrive.

As no fewer than eight out of the world's 14 highest peaks are in Nepal (the remainder being in Tibet, Sikkim and Pakistan), the situation there tends to be worse than elsewhere in the Himalayas. These problems notwithstanding, if you are reasonably fit Himalayan trekking can still be one of the great pleasures of life.

Cheap

If you opt to go trekking on the cheap, of course, you will have only yourself to blame if the experience is disappointing. Local lodges are invariably crammed with Westerners and are usually noisy, dirty and full of wood smoke. If, on the other hand, you employ the services of a reliable company and take tents, you will be able to leave the overcrowded routes, eat better food and, generally speaking, be more comfortable.

Next, if you are determined to see Everest, or the famous scenery of the Annapurna region (an entirely understandable decision), then you should travel with a company which will take you on the less frequented routes. If, however, you are prepared

to forsake Everest and Annapurna, the possibilities begin to multiply. In Nepal, treks west of Manaslu (26,760ft) and south of Dhaulagiri (26,796ft) provide spectacular scenery, and it is impossible to buy Coca-Cola at any price.

Then, of course, there is India. Trekking has not so far been developed in India to anything like the extent it has in Nepal, but some companies now employ Nepalese Sherpas as trek leaders. The Central Indian Himalayas are accessible, the Gangotri region in particular being famous for the trails up to the sources of the Ganges. In the far north-west, Kashmir offers relatively easy treks in pretty (rather than overwhelming) scenery.

In the Himalayas, broadly speaking, there are two completely different types of environment. The southern face of the range is green and forested owing to the heavy rainfall during the monsoon. To the north there is an immense rain shadow, and the land is high desert.

Both Zaskar and Ladakh are extensions into Indian territory of this arid Tibetan plateau. Trekking here (and in Tibet itself) is a very different experience, not least because you are never below 10,000ft. Bear in mind that north of the range the best season is summer, while to the south, summer is the one season when trekking is impossible.

Finally there is Tibet itself, where trekking groups are now allowed to follow the route taken by the ill-fated British Everest expeditions of the Twenties to Rongbuk, beneath the mountain's blood-curdling north face.

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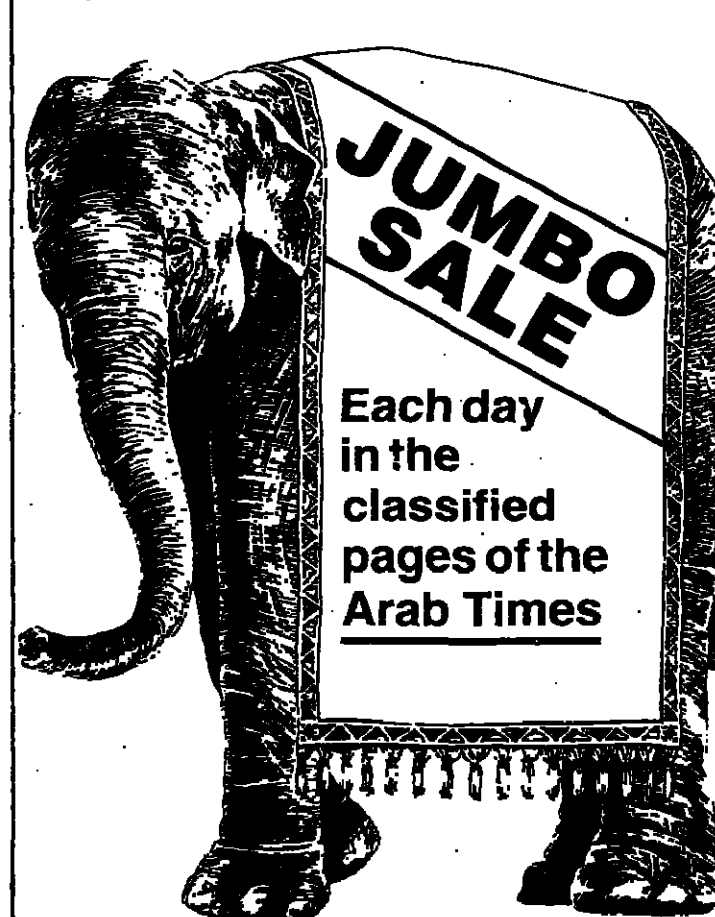
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ایڈوکیٹ جنرل نے ۵۵ درخواستوں کو مسترد کر دیا۔ ان کی بجلی کے خلاف اپیل کا فیصلہ واپس لے لیا۔



بیش عداوتہ کرنا اور دوسروں کے لیے دشمنی کرنا کی جگہ پر دیکھ کر ان کی درخواستوں کو مسترد کر دیا۔ ان کی بجلی کے خلاف اپیل کا فیصلہ واپس لے لیا۔

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کراچی، ۲۳ جنوری (پریس ریلیٹ) پاکستان کی وزارت خارجہ نے ایک بیان میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان دوبارہ دولت مشترکہ میں شمولیت پر غور کر رہا ہے۔ ملک عام آئینوں میں ترمیم کے سلسلے میں سیاسی جماعتیں سے رابطہ کر رہی ہے۔

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افغان مجاہدین نے شاہراہ سالانگ پر دوبارہ قبضہ کر لیا۔ پشاور میں ایک پٹرول پمپ پر بم دھماکا ہوا۔

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میزورام اور ناگ لینڈ کے انتخابات میں حکمران کانگریس پارٹی کی جیت۔ تامل ناڈو میں گھٹت سے سارا اجیتی ہندو پوزیشن کے کنٹرول میں آ گیا۔

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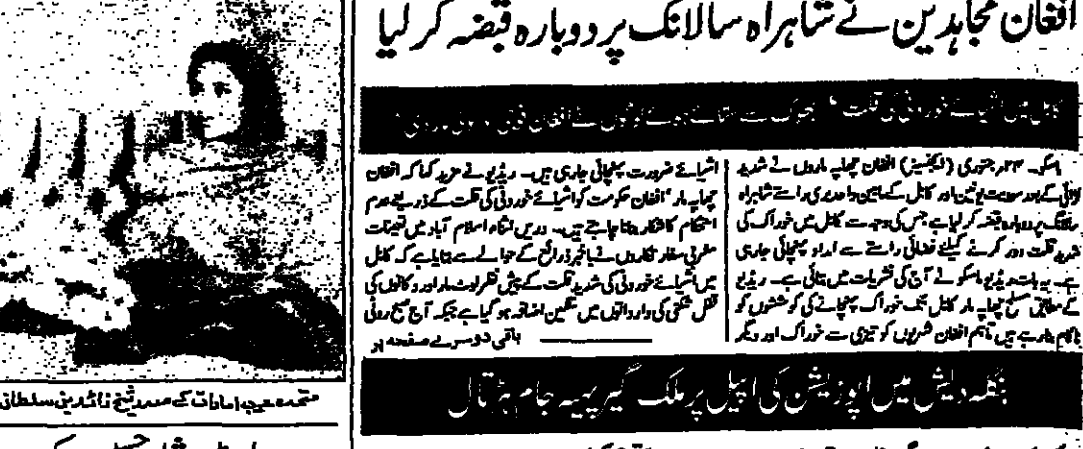
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مقامی اخبارات کے مدیران نے ایک مشترکہ بیان میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان دوبارہ دولت مشترکہ میں شمولیت پر غور کر رہا ہے۔

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SPORTS

Jankovic regrets leaving Spain

BRUSSELS, Jan 24, (Reuters): Yugoslav midfielder Milan Jankovic admits he made the worst possible decision when he left Spain's Real Madrid for Belgian club Anderlecht six months ago.

Jankovic, capped 19 times by Yugoslavia, is judged not good enough for Anderlecht by the club's coach Raymond Goethals.

Though partly responsible for signing the 29-year-old Yugoslav, Goethals has used Jankovic on just six occasions — and each time as substitute for an injured player.

Consequently, Jankovic has lost both his confidence and his place in the Yugoslav national team. And his dream of helping Yugoslavia qualify for the 1990 World Cup in Italy is under threat.

"The national coach has said that if I don't play here at Anderlecht, I won't get my place back in the Yugoslav team," Jankovic told Reuters.

Jankovic has now given up hope of winning a regular first team place in the Anderlecht side and has set his heart on returning to Spain to resurrect his international career.

Confidence

He used part of Belgium's month-long winter break to scout for potential Spanish employers. Current candidates include Real Mallorca and Sporting Gijon and Jankovic said: "If I could, I would leave straight away. I think a lot about it."

"From the first day, I lacked confidence here. And nobody helped me," he said.

He said he even had to spend time on the substitutes' bench during training. "The problems are there because I don't play," he said. "I'm off balance now."

"He's a good, very intelligent player," said Anderlecht manager Michel Verschueren. "But when he arrived here, he was not in top shape and the team was playing very well without him."

"He is now our foreign player number four but I think he has to show he has character and try to be better than the others," Verschueren said.

Belgian clubs are allowed to field three foreign players in league matches and Goethals feels Dutchman Adrie van Tiggelen, Nigerian Stephen Keshi and Australian Edi Krunic are more value to the team than Jankovic.

"I don't see who would clear the way for him," Goethals said, adding that Jankovic was a less capable defender than the others.

Jankovic retorted: "They knew what kind of player I was when they decided to sign me."

"But I'm not a beggar or a trouble-shooter. I'm a professional player," he said. "I just want one thing — to play here or somewhere else, because I don't want to miss Italy," he said.

Idea

"I've got nothing against Goethals personally," Jankovic added. "He's a good strategist and has a strong personality. But he has his own idea of what the team should look like and apparently that doesn't include me."

Jankovic, born in Jarko near Belgrade, played some 400 matches with Red Star Belgrade before he joined Real in a \$400,000 move to replace Argentine Jorge Valdano, who was ill with hepatitis.

Jankovic enjoyed a successful reign in Spain, winning League championship medals with Real in 1987 and 1988 and being named the country's best foreign player for the 1987-88 season.

But he opted to leave when Real signed Bernd Schuster from Barcelona, fearing the West German midfielder would overshadow him.

Now he realises it was a wrong decision.

"Whenever I'm in Spain, people tell me I'm better than Schuster," Jankovic said.

"He's got problems with officials, with the crowd," Jankovic said about his successor.

He added with a wry smile: "I regret leaving Real so much."

Gustafsson may miss European championship

STOCKHOLM, Jan 24, (UPI): Olympic double gold medalist and European title holder Tomas Gustafsson is suffering from stomach flu and is a doubtful starter for this weekend's European speedskating championships at his home rink in Goleborg.

"I have pain in every muscle of my body," Gustafsson told Swedish Radio from his hotel room at Swiss resort Davos, where he has been training for the championship event on his own home ice.

"I don't think it is a mental thing because of the pressure," said Gustafsson, who was voted the 1988 best sportman in Sweden in three different polls.

PACERS OUTPLAY NUGGETS

Cavaliers blast Warriors



Herb Williams (right) seen in action in an earlier game.

McClair scores two goals

United sweep aside QPR

LONDON, Jan 24, (Reuters): Manchester United romped into the fourth round of the Football Association (FA) Cup yesterday by crushing a 10-man Queen's Park Rangers side 3-0.

Rangers' hopes of success in the third round second replay all but vanished when Alan McDonald was dismissed for elbowing United striker Mark Hughes in the face after 24 minutes.

The Londoners briefly made life difficult for their hosts but were eventually swamped once Scottish striker Brian McClair put United ahead from the penalty spot after 54 minutes.

McClair later secured United's clash with Oxford in

Saturday's fourth round when he netted his 10th goal of the season with a 77th minute header. Sandwiched in between was a spectacular left-foot strike from England captain Bryan Robson.

McDonald, a hero when his last-gasp goal earned Rangers a draw in the first replay last week, had recently returned from a two-match ban and now faces an automatic three-match suspension.

Rangers' player-manager Trevor Francis blamed his side's defeat on the loss of McDonald. "Without doubt that incident made all the difference," he said. "It's never easy at Old Trafford with 11 men, and the last person I wanted to lose was McDonald."

NEW YORK, Jan 24, (AP): Larry Nance, who had a considerable height advantage, scored 22 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers ended the Golden State Warriors' eight-game winning streak 142-109 last night.

The 142 points represented Cleveland's best output of the season. The Cavs have won five straight games overall and 12 straight at home to improve their NBA-best record to 30-7.

The 6-foot-11 Nance, going against 6-8 Larry Smith and 6-3 Mitch Richmond, took control of the game early, scoring 16 first-half points to help Cleveland to a 72-52 halftime lead.

Ron Harper scored 21, Mark Price 19 and Mike Sanders 18 for Cleveland. Chris Mullin led Golden State with 27.

In the only other National Basketball Association games last night, Indiana defeated Denver 117-102 and San Antonio ran away from Miami 119-101.

Pacers 117, Nuggets 102. Herb Williams had a team-record 29 rebounds, while Reggie Miller scored a season-high

27 points to lead the Indiana Pacers over the Denver Nuggets 117-102 and snap a five-game losing streak.

Herb Williams had 21 points and Chuck Person 20 for Indiana.

Alex English scored 25 for the Nuggets, who have lost three straight.

Spurs 119, Heat 101

Willie Anderson scored 26 points and San Antonio snapped a seven-game losing streak by defeating Miami 119-101.

Anderson also had nine assists and six steals, both season highs.

The Spurs used a 23-6 third-quarter run to blow open what had been a tight game. An 8-0 surge at the end of the streak gave San Antonio a 76-66 lead.

Miami, now 1-18 on the road, scored just 12 third-quarter points, missing 14 of its 19 shots from the field and turning the ball over nine times.

Grant Long led Miami with 16 points. Rory Sparrow, who has led the Heat in scoring with a 13.6 points per game average, was held scoreless.

Lawyers ask for acquittal of British soccer fans

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Jan 24, (AP): In their first defence pleas in the Heysel trial, lawyers for the British soccer fans claimed today they were not the direct cause of death and asked for their acquittal.

Twenty-six Liverpool fans are charged with manslaughter, held responsible for the panic and stampede in which 39 people, mostly Italians, lost their life on May 29, 1985, before the European Cup soccer final between Liverpool and Juventus Turin.

Belgian state police officers, the Brussels mayor, his deputy, Belgian and European soccer federations officials also are tried for criminal neglect.

Harrie Vanbostraeten, the first defense lawyer to plead, said his client, Michael Barnes, was not seen on the videotapes shown in court attacking the Italian supporters.

Victims

The Belgian lawyers said the 24-year-old Briton, on whose guilt the prosecutor himself had expressed doubts, could not be held as the direct cause of the death of the Italian victims.

"Simple gestures are not assault and battery," Vanbostraeten said. "When panic started, the old, crumbling stands on which the victims tripped and the inefficient police action played a leading role in causing the tragedy."

"Because of this, my client cannot be considered as the direct cause of death," the lawyer added, "which is required to prove his guilt."

Lawyer Saskia Pelgrims, pleading for Gary Cooper, 26, another Liverpool supporter, rejected the manslaughter charge, claiming also that her client was not the direct cause of death.

"The victims died choked (in the stampede)," she said, "and you cannot prove objects thrown at them caused their death, neither can you prove there was a direct contact between the Britons and the victims."



Brian McClair

Church against Borg's marriage to pop singer

STOCKHOLM, Jan 24, (Reuters): The Roman Catholic church has turned down a request from Swedish former tennis ace Bjorn Borg and Italian pop singer Loredana Berté to marry in Milan next month, a spokesman said today.

Borg adviser Ingmar Alverdal told Sweden's national news agency TT he did not know why the church wedding planned for Feb 26, had been stopped.

"Bjorn and Loredana are deeply shocked and don't know what to do next," he said.

Annulled

But a Catholic church spokesman said: "They have both been married before and according to our belief marriage is sacred. Of course you can have a marriage annulled — but it takes time."

Borg, 32, who retired from professional tennis in 1983 after winning five consecutive Wimbledon titles, revealed his plans to marry the 38-year-old singer earlier this month.

His first marriage, to Romanian tennis player Mariana Simionescu, ended in divorce after four years. Berté is divorced from an Italian businessman.

Bricklaying paved the way for victory, says Rice

MIAMI, Jan 24, (Reuters): San Francisco wide receiver Jerry Rice said yesterday that working as a bricklayer laid the foundation for the performance that helped the 49ers beat the Cincinnati Bengals 20-16 in the 23rd Super Bowl.

"My father was a bricklayer and during my spare time (as a teenager) I would go out and help him work and it really helped me develop into the player I am today," Rice said at a news conference where he accepted a trophy as Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Super Bowl.

Learn

"It taught me responsibility. It taught me how to be the best. When you go out there and it's 100 degrees (38 centigrade) every day and you have your brother tossing you bricks, you learn how to use your hands," said Rice, perhaps the most sure-handed receiver in the National Football League (NFL).

Rice grabbed 11 Joe Montana passes on Sunday — including one for a touchdown. He also made three crucial catches in San Francisco's sensational game-winning drive in the closing minutes.

The Bengal defenders were so fearful of Rice that on the final play of the drive he was double covered, leaving teammate John Taylor open to catch the winning touchdown with just 34 seconds left in the game.

Rice said he thought Montana deserved the MVP award but was obviously thrilled with the honour.

"During the year ... you try to be your ultimate best and for me winning the MVP is a big achievement," he said.

Bruno's punches force Qawi to quit training camp

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Arizona, Jan 24, (Reuters): Heavyweight challenger Frank Bruno scored a knockout of sorts over the week-end when a sparring partner quit camp because he could not take Bruno's punches, the Briton's manager said yesterday.

Bruno, in training for a February 25 title fight in Las Vegas against champion Mike Tyson — undefeated in 35 fights — proved to be too strong for sparring partner and former light heavyweight champion Dwight Muhammad Qawi, who quit Bruno's camp over the weekend.

"Frank was just too strong for him," Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless said. "Dwight said he was hurting every time he got hit. You really can't blame him."

Bruno is the top-rated challenger by both the World Boxing Council and the World Boxing Association.

Leonard-Hearns rematch being considered for June

NEW YORK, Jan 24, (AP): Promoter Bob Arum is talking about a Jan 31 news conference to announce a Sugar Ray Leonard-Tommy Hearns fight, but Leonard's attorney said yesterday, "We have not completed negotiations yet."

"I know of no news conference," Mike Trainer said by telephone from his office at Bethesda, Maryland.

Bidding

"I believe if the bout does take place, there's a good shot it will be in June," Trainer said.



49ers Mike Wilson takes a pass from Montana during the first quarter. (Reuters wirephoto)

"This is a dream. This was the ultimate challenge. We went out and won the Super Bowl."

In addition to his bricklaying days, Rice credits 49er head coach Bill Walsh for his success.

"Bill's been a big inspiration to me. He took me in like a son and developed me into the player I am now," he said.

Rice said he hoped speculation that Walsh would retire after 10 years and three NFL championships with the 49ers was wrong.

"If it was up to me I would like Bill Walsh to come back for two or three more years."

"Bill is still very competitive and when you're competitive like that you just don't want to walk away. Plus when you're making a million dollars a year, that's kind of hard to turn loose."

Rice said he refused to let the

ankle he re-sprained in practice last week affect his play in the Super Bowl.

"Going into the game I was so motivated," said the amiable, soft-spoken receiver. "I felt I had to make some plays for my team to win. There was a lot of guys depending on me and there was no way that Jerry Rice was going to let his teammates down."

Along with the trophy, yesterday Rice was presented with a luxury sports car for being named MVP.

"I've got so many cars I don't know what I'm going to do with the Subaru," Rice said with a laugh.

"Maybe I'll give the car to my mom as a present. She really gave me encouragement all year long and I think she's really going to get a kick out of the Subaru."

Barnes takes overall lead in Grand Prix

NEW YORK, Jan 24, (AP): Randy Barnes, who shattered the world indoor record in the men's shot put, has shot into the men's overall lead in the Mobil Indoor Grand Prix track and field circuit.

After six meets of the 13-meet Grand Prix season, Barnes, the silver medalist at last year's Olympic Games, has 40 points.

Sharing the women's lead are high hurdler Kim McKenzie and high jumper Louise Ritter of the United States and race walker Ann Peel of Canada, each with 30 points.

Barnes broke the world indoor record in the shot put with a heave of 74 feet, 4 1/4 inches (22.66 metres), last Friday night in the Sunbelt Invitational at Los Angeles.

The previous world record was 73-0 1/2 (22.6 metres), by Werner Gunthor of Switzerland, and the old American record was 72-3 (22.02 metres), by George Woods. Barnes' throw also exceeded the American outdoor record of 73-10 3/4 (22.51 metres), by John Brenner.

On Saturday night, at the US West-Koin Indoor Meet at Portland, Oregon, Barnes won the shot put at 69-2 (21.08 metres). During the competition, his shot disintegrated, literally.

In the men's standings, two-time Olympic high hurdles champion Roger Kingdom is second with 32 points.

Fans told to stop blowing hooters

HAMBURG, West Germany, Jan 24, (Reuters): Sports officials in environment-conscious West Germany want enthusiastic spectators at sports events to stop blowing hooters because they pollute the earth's atmosphere.

The Hamburg Sports Federation said today the gas-pressured horns not only caused noise pollution but contained chlorofluorocarbons, which deplete the earth's ozone layer.

Girardelli: the Bionic Man of Alpine skiing

WENGEN, Switzerland, Jan 24, (Reuters): Marc Girardelli has so many scars from skiing injuries and surgery that his rivals have dubbed him 'the Bionic Man.'

His one-man Luxembourg ski team, operates on a shoestring budget compared with its powerful rivals yet, in the space of just over a week, Girardelli has become the most potent force in downhill ski racing this season.

Until Friday, January 13, slalom specialist and former overall champion Girardelli had never won a World Cup downhill in 10 years of travelling the circuit.

Record

Then three wins on two of the White Circus' most difficult hills had fans, journalists leaving frantically through the record books and scratching their heads for new superlatives.

The first man to win twice — both times with a course record — on Wengen's steep Lauberhorn mountain, the first man since Jean-Claude Killy to win in all three traditional disciplines in the same season, the first man other than Pirmin Zurbriggen to collect victories in all four events currently included in the cup, one of only nine men to win a double downhill — the list ran on and on.

In between the downhill triumphs Girardelli slotted in a giant slalom victory at Adelboden and two combination wins, seized the overall, downhill and slalom cup leads and by him-

self built up twice as many points for Luxembourg as the whole Swedish team — men and women — have amassed all season.

The calm, articulate Girardelli — Austrian-born, of Italian ancestry, racing for Luxembourg and living in Switzerland — takes it all in his stride, refusing to talk about winning the overall cup for a third time although he is already 75 points ahead of his long-time rival Zurbriggen of Switzerland.

Downhill victory may have been a long time coming but Girardelli had already had three second place finishes and looked set to win in Leukerbad a year ago until he crashed at 100 kph, damaging his chest and slitting open his elbow with the edge of one of his skis.

His current form in a rare injury-free season has made him a big favourite for a collection of gold medals in the last two world championships.

"I have twice before lost world titles by a few hundredths of a second, in 1985 and 1987," said Girardelli, whose only world gold so far has been in the combination — a event he dismisses as of no value — in Crans Montana.

For once at least, Girardelli is calm and fit as he sets off on the trail.

At the Bormio World Championships in 1985 problems over his nationality — he was not then



Girardelli: the best this season

officially a citizen of Luxembourg — kept his participation in doubt until the last minute. Only after intervention from the government of the Duchy, which had taken Girardelli under its wing when his father Helmut split with regional trainers in Austria in 1976, did the International Ski Federation allow Girardelli to race.

In November 1986, in the run-up to the Crans Montana championships, he badly injured his shoulder in a fall. He dislocated the shoulder a further five times

during the season and was unable to produce his best shot at the world titles.

Luxembourg's hopes of their first Winter Olympic medal were dashed by the Leukerbad injuries, which needed attention from a surgeon friend of Girardelli who had repaired his left knee after another bad crash in 1983.

"I hope, finally, to be able to ski at my best in Vail," said Girardelli who was registered as 80 per cent disabled after the 1983 accident.

Girardelli's regular spills

worry his father who has guided his World Cup career without the benefit of the \$5 million budget that the Swiss team has.

"His father is mentally exhausted before and after every downhill because he has so much fear for Marc," says Egon Schoepf, one-time trainer of former Austrian world champion Karl Schranz who now, with a serviceman and Helmut, makes up the entire Girardelli entourage.

Schoepf admires the younger Girardelli's iron will and his hard work. "Nobody can imagine what Girardelli goes through and what energy and dedication he needs to manage his career without the benefit of team comparisons," he said.

The close relationship between father and son, both strong-minded, can get strained.

Problem

"It is sometimes tough to deal with my father," Girardelli says. "When it becomes a problem I just walk away but he has never let me down and I trust him."

But downhill victory is giving Marc a taste for the most prestigious of the Alpine ski events, which he says he now prefers to slalom, and Helmut will have to resign himself to the feelings of fear as he watches his son hurtle down yet another mountainside.

"When I was younger I used to race for my parents because they had invested so much money in me," said Girardelli. "But now I race for myself."

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MCENROE REACHES AUSTRALIAN OPEN QUARTERFINALS

Sukova edges past Navratilova

MELBOURNE, Jan 24, (Reuters): Second seed Martina Navratilova crashed out of the Australian Open tennis championships today serving a double fault on match point to hand Helena Sukova a thrilling 6-2 3-6 9-7 quarterfinal victory.

It was Czechoslovak Sukova's fourth success against the American, who had never before failed to reach the last four at this tournament.

By the end of an incident-packed ninth day at the National Tennis Centre, Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg had just 12 hours to recover from a back injury which had all but robbed him of a crushing win over Australia's Pat Cash.

Edberg was just two points from victory over the 1987 Wimbledon champion in the fourth-round match when he pulled up clutching his back.

The Swedish fourth seed, given a pain-killing spray and massage on court, recovered sufficiently to serve out the match against a lacklustre Cash who put on his worst ever performance in a Grand Slam tournament. Edberg won 6-4 6-0 6-2.

"That was sheer guts. Had he not won that game he might have found it difficult to carry on," Edberg's coach Tony Pickard said.

Cash said later he had considered pulling out of the match because of an undisclosed personal problem.



Edberg receives attention from a trainer after injuring his back. (Reuters wirephoto)

Navratilova served twice for the match but could not deliver the killer punch against her Czechoslovak opponent who had the most potent weapon on court, her crosscourt backhand.

On Sukova's first match point Navratilova hit her first serve long. Incredibly she netted her second in a repeat of the mistake on match point which gave Steffi Graf her first Grand Slam title at the 1987 French Open.

"I never saw myself losing which is why I'm so disappointed. I was enjoying it," Navratilova said later. "I've now got to wait five months until the French Open to redeem myself."

The day also threw up the intriguing prospects of McEnroe versus Lendl and Graf against Sabatini.

John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl, the man who deposed him as world number one in September 1985, will meet tomorrow in the men's quarterfinals, their 29th clash in nine years.

The erratic genius and the fit test all-rounder in men's tennis are tied at 14-all in the series, but McEnroe is confident his form is good enough to beat Lendl for the first time in a Grand Slam tournament since the 1984 US Open.

"I feel like my game is getting close to what it used to be and I'm going to be better than I was a

couple of years back," said McEnroe after defeating fellow-American Aaron Krickstein 7-6 6-2 6-3.

"Hopefully my shot-making ability will come into effect more against Lendl and I feel like I have an advantage in that sense," Edberg plays Austrian Thomas Muster who defeated Magnus Gustafsson 6-3 6-2 7-5.

Steffi Graf, the undisputed queen of the women's game, and Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini are still teenagers but they will face each other for the 17th in Thursday's semifinal.

Graf, who booked her last four place by defeating fellow West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-2 6-3, has won 14 of the matches but her record against Sabatini since the end of 1987 is not so convincing.

Sabatini, seeded third here, inflicted two of Graf's three defeats last year although the West German beat her twice on her way to becoming the first woman since 1970 to claim the Grand Slam.

Graf, yet to drop a set, looks, and obviously feels, unbeatable. "I have a good feeling at the moment, a very good feeling. I think it's going to be hard for anyone to beat me, that's been obvious for a year now."

Graf took only 55 minutes to beat eighth seed Kohde-Kilsch who after her win rushed to court one to see Sabatini struggle to secure a spot against her in the

semifinals.

"I was not playing the right game," said Sabatini after a faltering 6-4 2-6 6-4 performance against American Zina Garrison, the number six seed.

The Argentine teenager's form has switched between devastating and oddly unimpressive throughout the tournament, and Garrison nearly made the most of another off day.

Despite the close call, Sabatini said she relished the chance of meeting Graf. "I like to play Steffi. Maybe I don't respect her very much. My game bothers her a little," she said.

"I am not afraid when I come to play her. I just want to be number one and that's all I have in my mind."

Tired

Sukova plays unseeded Belinda Cordwell in the other semifinal after the New Zealander overcame a tired Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-2 2-6 6-1. Lendl was 5-3 down after losing his serve to love in the first set of his match against Israel's Amos Mansdorf.

But the Czechoslovak soon hit overdrive, coming back to win the first set 7-6 after clinching the tiebreak 7-2.

Lendl, powering down 14 aces, wrapped up the next two sets 6-4 6-2.

His plan for the quarterfinal is simple. "I'll try to step right into his pace at the beginning and keep the pressure on."



HH the Amir with Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, Brig Mohammed Salih Al Khathir, head of the organising committee of the Gulf Co-operation Council Army Football Tournament, heads of sub-committees and the players who took part in the tournament. The delegation was received by the Amir yesterday.

Bin Sulayem aims to be fit for defence of crown

THREE-TIMES Middle East Rally champion Mohammed Bin Sulayem flew to Germany last night to have his neck plaster removed and a final check-up done before beginning practice for his title defence in Qatar on February 9.

Under the supervision of Professor Hipp, one of Europe's top specialists, the Dubai ace underwent neck surgery last month which included a bone graft and metal plate fitting to rectify injuries sustained in a road accident last October.

"I expect to be 100% fit for Qatar," said the popular 28-year-old star who presented the awards at the recent Malboro/BP Raid event in Oman.

Bin Sulayem, the undisputed

No. 1 driver in the Middle East, will pilot a new Group A Toyota G.T. 4 in this year's championship, marking the end of the Group B era in the region. The new car is expected to arrive from Germany shortly.

It has also been confirmed that the Dubai ace will not drive a Ford Sierra Cosworth this year. For the past two seasons Bin Sulayem has enjoyed a highly successful programme in Europe and Africa with his 295 bph Mariboro backed Group A car.

"It is a great tarmac car and real fun to drive," lamented Bin Sulayem.

The 1989 Middle East Championship comprises rounds in Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman and Dubai.

Christie may miss opening race of season

LONDON, Jan 24, (AP): Lyle Christie, Europe's fastest sprinter, has been hit by a hamstring injury and could miss the opening indoor race of the season on Saturday.

Christie, the Olympic 100-metre silver medalist, said today he had strained his hamstring training for the Dairy Crest International between Britain and West Germany in Glasgow, Scotland, and was fighting to be fit.

"I can't say definitely if I will run, and I'm not going to take any risk," the British sprinter said.

Compete

Christie originally was down to run both the 60 and 200 metres in Glasgow but, if fit, will now compete only in the shorter event, where his main rival will be Michael Rosswess, who set a British all-comers record for the distance earlier this month.

"It's annoying because I was pretty good shape," Christie said of the injury. "It happened when I was doing some fast runs and I was treated by my physio last night. Now I'm playing it by ear."

Five-year ban for players who tour South Africa

LONDON, Jan 24, (Reuters): Cricketers who have sporting contacts with racially-divided South Africa will be banned from the international game for up to five years, the sport's world governing body announced today.

The bans will be for either three, four or five years, depending on the type of contact, the International Cricket Conference decided on the second and last day of their meeting at Lord's today.

The suspensions will apply from April 1, 1989.

The bans apply as follows:

● Three years for players aged between 16 and 19.

● Four years for players over 19.

● Five years for members of a touring team to South Africa.

A further two years will be added to those sentences if a cricketer breaks the new regulations while already under suspension.

However, the ICC agreed on a general amnesty for cricketers who played in South Africa at any time before the new rule takes effect on April 1.

Two high court judges quashed a criminal summons, issued to the association against ICC secretary Colonel John Stephenson, which alleged the proposals for a ban were blackmail.

Later in the day, two professional cricketers backed by the association decided, because of lack of court time, to drop temporarily a parallel claim under civil law for an injunction to stop the ICC acting on the proposals.

Philip Vaughan, solicitor for the ICC and Colonel Stephenson, said this left the ICC free to "get on with the job" of discussing the proposals.

"There's no cloud hanging over the meeting and how they make their decision," he said.

Vaughan said there would be no further court proceedings while today's meeting at Lord's was going on, but it was up to the two players — Neal Radford and Kevin Curran — to decide if they wanted to re-instate their application once it was over.

Norris McWhirter, head of the Freedom Association, agreed this possibility was contingent on what sort of resolution was passed at the ICC meeting and whether it was acceptable.

Discussing

Worcestershire paceman Radford and Gloucestershire all-rounder Curran both South African-born, are playing provincial cricket in the republic at present.

Delegates from the seven Test-playing nations and 18 associate member countries are discussing four resolutions that include one seeking a life ban and another a four-year suspension for players who work in racially-divided South Africa in future.

McWhirter said it would be "repugnant to the laws of England" if the two cricketers — Curran was at present in Cape Town and Radford in Johannesburg — could not get some form of relief in the courts if they were punished by the ICC.

Pakistan set to meet Kuwait in qualifier

THE Pakistani national football team arrived in Kuwait yesterday. The Pakistanis are scheduled to meet Kuwait in an Asian Group Three World Cup qualifying match on Friday.

The first clash between the two teams took place earlier this month in Islamabad with Kuwait winning 1-0. Pakistan have lost both their matches so far. They were thrashed 5-0 by the United Arab Emirates in Sharjah last Friday.

Easy

Kuwait won its second match by beating UAE 3-2 and now lead the group with a maximum of four points from two matches and with an easy victory against Pakistan almost certain, Kuwait need only to draw against UAE in their next game to move into the second qualifying round.

The Pakistani team, on its arrival in Kuwait, was received at



The Pakistan squad at the Kuwait airport.

the airport by Asad Tagi — a Kuwait Football Association board member.

The Pakistani squad is being led by Mohammed Hafiz Mirza. The delegation consists of 19 players, four officials and the team's German coach.

The visitors start training at

the KFA stadium today and will tomorrow practice at the Al Arabi Sports Club, where the qualifier will be held on Friday afternoon.

Mirza said that his team would try to provide a good match for the Pakistani and Kuwaiti spectators. He added that his team

had not played well in its two earlier matches.

The Pakistani team's German coach was also of the opinion that the team's performance in the earlier qualifiers had not been good. He added that the Pakistani team's main aim was to gain experience from such matches.

Two inquiries launched into betting

LONDON, Jan 24, (Reuters): Two inquiries were launched today into winning bets on a snooker match between former world champion Terry Griffiths of Wales and South African Silvino Francisco.

The Betting Office Licenses' Association also told its members to withhold payment pending their probe into the circumstances surrounding betting on Griffiths' 5-1 victory yesterday in the first round of a major tournament at Wembley.

"We have received reports of an unusual pattern of betting on the match, so we must investigate," said spokesman Tom Kelly.

Bookmakers yesterday reported an unusually large number of wagers forecasting the correct frame score and suspended bet-

ting. Ron Pollard, spokesman for one major bookmaking firm, Ladbrokes, who stand to lose an estimated £10,000 (£17,800), said: "Perhaps it would have been 5-1 whatever had gone on before, but it seems odd nobody wanted to bet on any other frame score than the one which happened."

Allegations

World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) secretary Martyn Blake said today: "We are looking into allegations of betting irregularities on the match."

"We have no evidence of any malpractice and should any evidence be found, this will be passed on to the appropriate authorities."

"We have spoken with the two

players involved and they both totally refute being involved in any betting irregularities. Both the players involved are leading members of the association."

Pollard said: "We were offering (odds of) 4-1 against a 5-1 frame score in the morning. Someone went into our Wadsworth Street (in London) office and put on £500, then after we went to 7-2 against we took another £1,000."

"Other firms reported some big bets on the 5-1 score so I suspended betting on the match."

Francisco said: "We are all professional players and as such, we try to win best of nine frame matches 5-0."

"We have a code to uphold. I would never let down my fellow professionals by doing anything other than try my best."

France's key pair out of action

PARIS, Jan 24, (Reuters): France, 26-21 winners over Ireland in their opening Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match on Saturday, could be without key pair Gilles Bourguignon and Patrice Lagisquet against Wales next month.

Lock Bourguignon, who plays for Narbonne, sprained his left knee and will not be able to play until February 12, his club said.

Sprain

Left wing Lagisquet, who scored two tries against Ireland in Dublin, will be out of action for 12 days with a slight sprain in his right ankle, his club Aviron of Bayonne said.

The French selectors meet on February 8 to choose the squad for the match against Wales in Paris on February 18.

Kuwaiti stars keep Dubai Horse Show on the rise

DUBAI: After a tremendously successful four days of action with Kuwait's brilliant horsemen playing a major part, the Arab world's premier showjumping event again looks like going from strength to strength.

When Bahrain's Ahmed Sharida captured the Dunhill Cup in a thrilling climax to the sixth Dubai Horse Show, there could be no doubts that the Metropolitan Hotel showground had again lived up to its reputation as the Hickstead of the Middle East.

Outstanding

Sharida's fantastic clear round on Lys Du Conte, was one of several outstanding performances that brought show director Capt Mark Phillips to his feet to join in the applause.

Later, when the delighted Bahraini was receiving the prestigious Dunhill Cup from the sponsor's Hassan Mukhtar, Capt. Phillips said: "This was a fitting way for the show to end. It has been a very enjoyable week and I would love to be asked to come back to Dubai next year."

Capt. Phillips, husband of



Al Daphire on his way to one of his victories at the Dubai Horse Show.

Britain's Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, and an experienced Olympic rider, was highly impressed with the standard of horsemanship among the Gulf riders, who largely overshadowed the four international stars from Europe.

He had special praise for talented Kuwait Army Officer Lt Rakad Al Daphire, one of several riders whose hopes in the show's main event on the final

night were dashed when he knocked down the Dunhill fence, the last obstacle.

"Rakad is helped by the fact that he has some very good horses, but he is obviously a fine young rider," said Capt. Phillips, a member of the British showjumping team in Seoul. "I have been greatly impressed with all the young riders from the Gulf countries."



Capt Mark Phillips (left) congratulates Al Daphire after the latter had received the Silver Spurs.

Disappointed at missing victory in the Dunhill Cup, Lt Al Daphire, one of three Kuwaiti officers to catch the eye, had earlier ridden Silver Stream and Liwice to three individual victories which rightly earned him the Metropolitan Hotel Silver Spurs as the leading Arab rider in the show. Clearly feeling emotional, all he could find to say was: "Wonderful, wonderful."

For the host country, the show — held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Crown Prince of Dubai — could hardly have been more successful. UAE riders claimed ten victories, and leading the way was the determined Lorraine Garland whose skill on Alabjar gave her the Silver Spurs as the best non-Arab rider.

Two killed in rally crash were drivers, says team

MONTE CARLO, Jan 24, (Reuters): Two Swedish men killed in a crash during the Monte Carlo Rally yesterday were reconnaissance drivers, their team manager said today.

Police said yesterday the pair, Wilhelm Lars-Erik Torph, 51, and Bertil Rune Rehnfeldt, 28, had been spectators at the event.

But Lorenzo Ravizza of the top run rally team said the men were reconnaissance drivers for top run Swedish driver Fredrik Skoghag.

Both men were experienced rally competitors. Torph came second in the Ivory Coast Rally of 1986 and the Hong Kong Peking Rally the same year. Rehnfeldt, as co-pilot of Swede Bo Ljungfeldt, was a regular at Monte Carlo in the early 1960s.

The two men died after being hit by the Lancia of Italian Alessandro Fiorio. Television pictures showed Fiorio veering off the road at high speed into a ravine beside the mountainous course in southern France.

Skoghag said today he was withdrawing from the race.

"There is nothing else to do," he told reporters. "I can't continue after this has happened."

Fiorio and his co-driver Luigi Pirollo received only scratches in the crash. Two of the three people injured were still in a coma today.

Course director Rene Isard tried to play down yesterday's crash, saying: "It's an unfortunate accident but there will certainly be others. This must not throw rallies into doubt."

Standings

1. Massimo Biasini (Italy) Lancia five hours 32 minutes 32 seconds.
2. Didier Auriant (France) Lancia three hours 35 minutes 40 seconds.
3. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Mitsubishi 4:04.
4. Bruce Saly (France) Lancia 4:05.
5. Hannu Mikkola (Finland) Mitsu 4:09.
6. Jukka Kankkunen (Finland) Toyota 4:12.
7. Patrick Snijders (Belgium) Toyota 4:13.
8. Dario Cerrito (Italy) Lancia 4:14.
9. Marc Duez (Belgium) BMW 4:24.
10. Gregoire de Mevius (Belgium) Mitsu 4:28.
11. Paolo de Martini (Italy) Audi 4:34.
12. Alain Oreille (France) Renault 4:35.
13. P. Giegle Oels (Italy) Lancia 4:37.
14. Bertrand Bales (France) Lancia 4:38.
15. Christophe Sphitidis (Greece) Audi 4:40.

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